

Interviews – News – Events (INE) © 2018

Welcome all.

INE: Today I'm very lucky to interview Christina L. Allen, Professional Artist and owner of Corn Crib Studio. Christina received her BFA from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI and her Master's Degree from Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI.

INE: Hi Christina, thank you for agreeing to this interview.

CA: You're welcome! Thank you for asking.

INE: What made you decide to become an artist?

CA: I have always loved drawing and making things, as long as I can remember. My grandfather suggested to my mother that she send me to art classes because I would sit and draw all the time. I was also good in school in math and science, so I started college in Pharmacy. I didn't think of art as a career. And I didn't think I could support myself with art. It was a 95-year-old woman who told me to do what I loved and I would always sleep better at night. It was some of the best advice I ever received.

INE: How long have you been an artist?

CA: Professionally, since I graduated from graduate school, 38 years ago. I didn't want to do my artwork on secondary or tertiary energy. So, I decided to go for it. After all, I had spent a lot of money for college. I may as well try to make it pay off in the field of my choice. I did get certified to teach art...in case I needed a backup job or plan.

INE: What do you love the most about being an artist?

CA: I love making things. I NEED to do artwork or I get very depressed. It must be the way I'm wired. It's as necessary as eating and drinking for me...to make things.

INE: Tell us a little about your preferred style and choice of media for your art.

CA: When I was young, I used oils because people told me that was the "serious" art medium. But, if you work on a painting long enough in oils, you can get it perfect. I got bored. I discovered watercolors after taking a class at Radcliffe. I love the constant challenge and the immediacy of watercolors. I now, however, am in a phase using watermedia. But I may swing back and forth. I also have done bronze sculptures, and most other media at some time. But generally, I call myself a watercolorist. I do think three dimensionally. It comes naturally to my way of seeing the world. So, my paintings are representational ("realistic").

INE: What type of subjects inspire your art?

CA: I love nature and the environment. I used to do portraits in a natural setting. I think I was quite good at it. But I joke that I got more anti-social as I got older and less and less people ended up in my paintings. Now landscapes and water scenes are my favorite.

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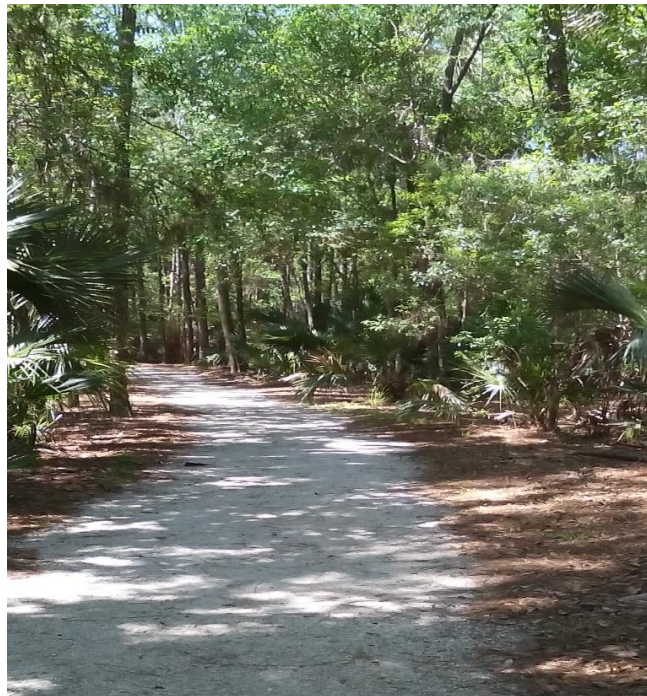
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INE: What qualities do you look for when you are looking for something to draw or paint?

CA: I love texture, reflections, and transparency. I also love strong light effects and shadows. I like clean lines. I want to attract someone's attention into the scene or subject matter.

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Photo by INE © 2018

INE: What artists influence your work the most?

CA: Alex Coleman, a Canadian artist, is/was my favorite artist. I love the clean look of his paintings and the underlying tension in his subject matter.

When I was younger, the Wyeth family inspired me. Mostly because I went to college in the 70's and there wasn't much representational art that was being discussed. They gave me permission to do my work when it was not popular.

INE: Who are your favorite famous artist(s)?

CA: Alex Coleman.

Artists from 1890-1910 in the Glare Aesthetic movement.

INE: What is your favorite quote?

CA: One foot in front of the other.

INE: Do you have any advice for artists just starting out?

CA: Not everything you do will be great, or good. Keep plugging away. Progress comes in bursts. You may be working for a long time with no significant progress...then you get a leap. Sometimes you can only tell you have made progress by looking back at older work. If you hate it, then good! That means you are doing and expecting better now.

Also, don't ever exhibit work that isn't up to your standards. It has your name on it. Consider it a learning experience.

INE: Is there anything else you would like to add that I haven't included?

CA: I think art can and should only be beautiful. It seems that "to create" means to make new. "To destroy" and take down is the opposite. How can something that degrades then be considered art? Step back from your work periodically and ask yourself if it has good line, composition, and color? And is it beautiful?

Art is a way of knowing the world. It doesn't matter what medium you use. Find the medium that fits the concept.

INE: How can readers discover more about you and your art?

CA: Website: www.CornCribStudio.com. Primary.

Or, www.CornCribPublishing.com.

INE: Thank you very much for taking the time out of your busy schedule to take part in this interview. Best of luck and much success for the future.

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