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My formal education is rather limited to a mail correspondence course, a night course or two along with learning from TV shows, studying art books and doing countless internet searches even though my 'natural' interest and involvement goes back farther than I can remember I guess you can say I was self-taught, but one thing is for sure. If I were to be asked why I do art, I would have to say it's because I cannot not do art.

Since the 80's when I started to spend more time on my art and enter Art & Craft shows, I tried to devote more time to my art, but of course along with the demands of a full time job and family responsibilities, it wasn't until I retired 15 years ago that I could now devote almost all my time to my art. I have drawn and painted in every medium just to explore and see what appealed to me and have in the last few years even began sculpting. You might say it's a bit of 'jack of all trades, master of none', but now I can respond to any creative urge and develop it from an idea into a completed form just by following my developing skills and feelings.

To just recreate what I see is not enough and isn't much different than taking a photograph of something. It should go beyond what the environment naturally provides by adding and subtracting what's necessary to achieve the end result and it must say something.

I look for something that attracts me like the color of the sky or shapes of the clouds, the direction of natural or contrived light and the corresponding cast shadows or the interesting shapes in nature and manmade objects and embellish these perceived unusual features.

By accentuating these things that viewers may miss, I give the viewer something to think about, not just something to see. It's the job of the artist to bring to the viewer the best that can be found in nature along with some creativity or exaggeration, not just the normal and ordinary and above all, to follow my innate intuition.

Lately, I'm attempting to avoid planning the next art project, but trying to feel an emotion that will become a completed piece. If I don't paint for a length of time or don't paint one painting after another, it really doesn't concern me, but it's important that there is an emotional connection to the art piece. I'm not sure where these artistic endeavors will take me, but one thing is for sure, though, is that I will not stop doing what I love anytime soon.

It's just something inside me and I couldn't stop if I wanted to.