

## **Art Bio**

### **Valorie Ashley**

I am an Artist who loves the enriching value that art brings to life. As far back as I can remember, I have drawn pictures with great detail. I studied art at every opportunity...graduating from San Diego State University with a major in Social Science, emphasis in Multicultural Studies and a minor in Art.

My career led me into elementary education for 10 years, followed by marketing and public relations, and then development/ fundraising for nonprofit organizations. Most recently, I enjoyed 10 years, following an entrepreneurial heart, as the owner and innkeeper of my Bed and Breakfast, the Villa De Valor, in Julian California.

I felt a growing desire to explore and embrace a part of my heritage that had been buried in history. On both sides of my family tree, my parents had full-blooded Native Americans as great-grandparents. I began drawing Native Americans, the "ancients" or "elders" as I call them; individuals with the wisdom of the world contained in their weathered, wrinkled features, especially in their beautiful "eyes".

Since that awakening, I've drawn several Native Americans, an Alaskan, a Hawaiian, several African- Americans, Anglos, a Haitian child, a 91-year-old Peruvian, and Jesus Christ has joined my collection as a rendering from the Shroud of Turin. My medium is pencil. The drawings look like photographs that capture the past in the glare from their eyes...

My home is my gallery housing my children. I have never even thought of selling one of my 'original' kids. Several years ago, I took two out to meet the public in a juried art show. I stood close by, listening to the comments from individuals -- other than my family and friends -- they were saying such nice things about my portraits! What a wonderful thing to hear non-solicited compliments about my drawings. The dining parlor at the B&B became my gallery and the guests' compliments continued.

I won "Best Art Collection" in Arrington's – an International Bed and Breakfast Magazine. Since then, my portraits have been bought in galleries and shows. I have completed several commissioned works, been featured in juried shows and produced a public work of art for the city of El Cajon.

I first study the photo or image for several days, maybe months...until it speaks to me. I then let the image take over and come to life on the page. I become obsessed with the image until it appears real and complete, as if by request. I studied art, but never took a

pencil drawing class or studied human face portraits. I believe my talent is a gift from God. I am always amazed and thankful...I am an Artist looking forward to sharing my gift. Every encounter has a meaning and is not by chance... Commissioned work is always welcomed.

Sincerely,  
Valorie Ashley

PS

I have been featured in juried shows, sold in gallery, and a “public Work” in front of El Cajon Library.

I am now spreading my wings and exploring  
Painting and Mixed Medium pieces,

Fly with me...