

## JAN BROWN – BIOGRAPHY

A life-long resident of Michigan, Brown began early to show a spark of art talent. She continued throughout her school days furthering this and eventually received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Michigan State University with an emphasis in printmaking. Teaching art in the Wayne-Westland School District was a joy, but due to constant layoffs, she eventually went into the classroom and enjoyed being artistic in the way she taught. In 1990 she received Teacher of the Year award in the district. While teaching, she received a Master of Arts from Eastern Michigan University.

In 2010 she retired after 35 years of teaching and began to explore abstract expressionism. She found she loved creating paintings where she wasn't limited to just "reproducing" a likeness. Color, emotion, line, texture, happy accidents, and much more allowed Brown to explore nonrepresentational work. She found she could create an energy in her paintings that soon became her signature. Abstraction freed her up to really begin to enjoy expressing emotion through paint. Under the guidance of Meighen Jackson, she continued to explore the abstract. In 2015, the figure called to her and she's been working to bring these two worlds, abstract and figurative, into one.

She has shown in numerous juried shows throughout Michigan and is a current member of the Birmingham Society of Women Painters and the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors.

### **Publications**

- 2018 LightSpaceTime online Figurative Art Exhibition: Honorable Mention for "Soul", Special Recognition for "The Guardian", and Special Merit for "Camouflage".
- 2017 "Structure" included in Strokes of Genius 9: "The Best of Drawing".
- 2016 Featured artist in Acrylic Artist magazine, Summer issue, 2016
- 2016 Selected to be included in Art Exhibeo's first publication: Jan Brown: A Riddle Wrapped in a Mystery
- 2015 Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery is very pleased to announce that Jan Brown will have a month solo art exhibition and she will be featured on the gallery's front page and in the "Solo Art Series" archive.
- 2015 Selected to be included in Sachet Mixte Women Arts Journal No. 7, October.
- 2014 "Pierian Springs" selected for Best of Acrylic Painting in AcrylicWorks.

## JAN BROWN – ARTIST STATEMENT

The human figure has always fascinated me. Having worked in recent years in non-representational abstract work, I found I was always drawn back to the human figure. This current body of work attempts to blend the figure into the world of abstraction. Beginning with ink wash drawings on raw canvas from live models, the “drawings” are literally “ripped up” and placed in pieces on regular gessoed canvas. Once they work as a total image and are adhered to the canvas, other mediums such as acrylic paint, ink, and raveled string are used to complete the image.

In 2016, the discovery of silver gesso and how some of the ink would transfer (when adhered with Acrylic Matte Medium) to what it was attached to lead to more playing. I have continued to work between figurative and abstract, losing the recognition of the figure to gain an overall statement that far exceeds the original drawing. I have found that when I take the greatest risk—facing failure, I am rewarded with far better work.

Art is an endeavor to reach a satisfaction from inside. Looking at art in all medias, there is a common thread to good art—it challenges the artist and the viewer.