

Ruth Smith Palmisano 1926-2002

Ruth Palmisano along with Pat Gellenbeck were the founding members of the Phoenix Artists Guild in 1984. Ruth was also the founding member of the Arizona Pastel Artists Association in 1996, and the Paradise Valley Art League.

Ruth was a professional Artist who taught for 20 years in classrooms and seminars as well as teaching art on two cruise lines from Alaska to Hawaii.

Ruth had two daughters and two sons, and a loving husband named Tony who backed her in all her endeavors.

Ruth juried shows and gave critiques throughout the country. She had shows too numerous to count. She judged many exhibits including the Arizona State Fair.

Ruth gained community recognition for her work with Arizona State University and was awarded a number from the Library Of Congress for her artwork and written articles on art.

Ruth's paintings have hung in many juried exhibitions and she received Best of Shows, Best of Class and the Arizona State Governor's Award. She was an expert in so many mediums. She also taught Porcelain Painting for years.

Ruth was not only a mentor but also a bright guiding light to many of today's artists. Ruth is terribly missed by so many of us in the Phoenix Artists Guild as well many of the valley's guilds. She helped write the Bylaws for the Arizona Art Alliance and was a very active member.

In the year 1999, the Phoenix Artists Guild wanted to recognize her by bestowing "The Ruth Palmisano Best of Show" award. She was so excited to receive that recognition.

To take her classes was such a privilege. There isn't a day goes by that I don't think of her. When I paint, I talk to her and ask, "how would you do this, Ruth" and she always says "Let the paper talk to you, Jackie" Or "Don't put the whole Maryanne in your painting, Jackie". Half of the Phoenix Artist Guild heard these phrases from her in her classes. I still miss her terribly.

Jaxine Cummins