

Jo Thompson



Jo Thompson's earliest memories are of making art, rolling out clay on her high chair tray. With both parents being artists, she grew up encouraged and taught by them both. After her BFA from Illinois Wesleyan University she attended the University of Arizona for Graduate School in Art History. During that time Jo visited Bisbee and was drawn to the historic and artistic community.

Jo returned to her hometown of Springfield, Illinois where she began to sell her work professionally. Realizing she wanted to pursue her career in the West, she left for Los Angeles. She began to create and sell limited edition etchings. Her Acrylic paintings, pastels and drawings of southwestern architecture and landscape were soon in numerous galleries in L.A., Palm Springs, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Chicago.

Jo owned a printmaking atelier in Palm Springs in the 1980's printing her own and other artists' limited edition etchings. She published her first book, *Marketing Your Art* and gave workshops on the topic to empower other artists to sell their work. She moved to San Diego to open a studio/gallery and was under contract to Front Line Graphics who published a number of prints and posters, which were sold worldwide.

In 1990, Jo went back to college to get teaching credentials and a Master's Degree in instructional technology from California State University, San Bernardino. She taught K-12 for seven years and then spent seven years at Cal State as staff and faculty. Her love for computers and the Internet is another facet of her life. *100hearts*, her next solo show was based on a yearlong project dealing with the concept of critical mass and that the next millennia will require humans to make a paradigm shift to living from the heart. Drawing from many heart metaphors the work reinforced the positive power of individual efforts to effect change. Jo published the '*100hearts Workbook: Put Your Creative Power into Practice*' and gave workshops and conference presentations on creativity and the heart revolution.



After 9/11 Jo became very involved with the peace movement, co-founding *the Women Creating Peace Collective*, which produced a series of performances, art shows, and conferences focused on peace. In 2003 Jo was selected to be part of *Envisioning the Future*, a collaborative multi-disciplinary art project with artist Judy Chicago. Her project involved images based on interconnectedness and the Net of Indra. At this time her interest in Buddhism began to influence her art. Attending teachings by the Dalai Lama on compassion and reflecting on the feminine face of Spirit, she did a series of mandalas and images of Tara, the Tibetan Goddess of Compassion.

Jo moved to Bisbee in 2004 and opened Bright Day Fine Art Gallery, had a radio show "Art Talk" and was Chair of the Bisbee Arts Commission for two years. She continues the effort to make heart-based art. Jo Thompson's artwork is available through her studio in Bisbee. You can make an appointment to visit by calling: 520-895-0869.

Visit her blog for more information on her work: <http://www.jothompsonart.blogspot.com>.