

# Sierra Skye Studio

*Lori Bernardo*

*Hi, my name is Lori ...*

... and I am new to the art world. Some years ago, I found myself needing an escape from reality (bad neighbors) such that, I enrolled in a local community college and took a drawing class on Saturdays. I soon realized one can learn to “do art.” It was exciting and over the past 8 years I have learned much, met interesting people, traveled near and far, and have been challenged in a good way. Yes, I moved on my terms!

Just a few years later, I decided to try painting. First, acrylics, watercolors and finally oils. In addition, I had the fortune to attend several Plein Air Conferences starting in Monterey, CA., Tucson, Az, and San Francisco, CA. There, I was told I needed to study with Charles Reid, David Taylor and others, and found Jove Wang in Los Angeles. I worked at attending as many as five workshop’s per year. Being new to art, I often was the worst painter in class but “I am willing to be bad to get good” as my drawing professor Margaret Welty says. After returning home, within 6 weeks my art work significantly improves – make that exponentially improved.

Between taking artist workshops and community college art classes, I am pleased with the progress of my work and have been challenged to enter local art shows on occasion. My plan is to continue painting when I retire from my day job in late 2021. I am a teacher with the prison system, 27 + years, and teach GED with an 80+ % passing rate.

My mediums include graphite, ink, charcoal, watercolor and oils at this time. I do portraits and landscapes mostly, on occasion venture into what is known as feminist art. I travel often and take paints with me. When I retire, I will spend much time at national parks and beautiful places including Canada, New Zealand, Asia and Europe. I like the challenge of a blank canvas and making “it” work. It is always a surprise.

Thank you for reading my profile.