

# Conni Jo Hardie

**Artist**

**Teacher**



I was born and raised in Placerville, CA. My parents, Lester & Joyce Frost raised me to be very independent, inquisitive, dependable, and confident. My grandmother, Martha Frost, encouraged my artistic interests, from the time I was a little girl age 7, when I entered my oil painting of flowers into the El Dorado Co. fair, adult division, and winning the second place ribbon, throughout college. My high school art teachers, Jim Esty and John Thompson encouraged me to be the most creative artist I could be, and to enjoy the art process. I attended CA State University, Chico, earning my BA degree in Art and my Secondary and Community College Life Time teaching credentials in Art. While teaching high school Art full time and Community College Art part time, I attended CA State University, Sacramento, earning my Master of Arts Degree in Art. (at the time they did not have an MFA program). I was the Art Department Chairperson for 14 years at Valley High School in the Elk Grove School District teaching Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Art, Sculpture, and Ceramics. I applied for an Art Teaching position at Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, and was hired to transform their current Art program. As Department chairperson I continued to encourage a strong Visual and Performing Art program throughout Oak Ridge high school and the El Dorado Union High School District for 24 years. I am now retired. My art is for me now. As an artist, I am considered a colorist. I also love working with the challenge of space relationships. I combine those two facets of my artistic interests throughout my work, whether it be a watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, Prismacolor, sculpture, clay work, metal work or photography. I enjoy experimentation with media for the fun of it with printmaking, mixed media and collage. As most artists, I draw from my own experiences for subject matter. Many of my works have tropical themes because I spend as much time as possible in Hawaii. My subjects can also be imaginative, problem solving, or observation based. I work in a variety of styles; Impressionistic, Realism, and Abstract. My motto: Don't be afraid of color.  
*Thank You!*

*Conni Jo*