



## PAINTER OF GOD'S GOODNESS ~ Candi Kloverstrom

*M*any early influences frame an artist's perception. But it's the response to those messages that can cause one to take a different path. Artist Candi Kloverstrom discovered her destiny because of a bend in the road divinely crafted for her by God. As time progressed, she uncovered a depth and direction that extended well beyond mere identity as an artist.

As a kindergartner in Valley City, North Dakota, was her first introduction into art with an easel and paint buckets stationed in the back of the room. She loved painting but the process befuddled her. She remembers thinking, "There is a better way to do this. I just don't know how." However, her seventh-grade art instructor noticing her admiring oil paintings by senior high students, whispered in her ear, "Someday you will be able to do

that." That passing statement planted an incredible seed: she could someday be an artist. Her interest in art came alive and she dove into sketching.

During her tenth-grade art class at Littleton, Colorado her art bent was validated. She drew her first portrait revealing the direction her art would someday take. She states, "Some of the kids around me noticed my portrait and said it was the best in the class. And it was." Seeds of hope began growing.

After she graduated from Littleton High School however, life was soon to break apart. Her parents were divorcing. So, she decided to put her life on the fast-track and entered a twenty-four month training program for X-ray technicians at the inner-city Denver General Hospital. The program may have been free, but she paid through blood, sweat, and tears. Today, she is incredibly

grateful for the training and uses her knowledge of human anatomy to paint portraits and the human figure.

After passing state boards she married Mark Kloverstrom and they eventually moved to Franktown, Colorado with their two children, Eric and Lori. Five tree-filled acres surrounded her 400 square foot studio. What an experience!

November 22, 1979 when her neighbor visited, her life went a totally new direction when she made a commitment to Jesus Christ. She wrote her grandmother of her new-found faith. Her grandmother responded, "I always prayed you would have the kind of neighbors who would bring you to the Lord."

Kloverstrom states, "As a creative person I feel a special connection to my incredibly creative God. At first I didn't really think about how art fit into my life I was so busy raising young children. But as time went on I began thinking about who God created me



to be. Art began playing an important role in my reaction to God's promptings. Today I understand the path I've traveled. He has been leading all along."

It was after taking a class from Denver's local artist, Betty Demaree, Kloverstrom decided a more formal route through the University of Colorado, Denver Center.

She studied drawing, oils, and life-drawing, graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Fine Art Degree. And then added to her instruction with classes from Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design, Denver.

For the next twenty plus years Kloverstrom helped small businesses create marketing materials. She learned the importance of focusing on fundamental messages. And the most powerful messages are the simplest. She also self-published two local recipe books, *A Taste of Castle Rock* and *Denver Men in the Kitchen*. She states, "You wouldn't think that men and cooking belong together. Today I like to do the same kind of thing by creating art that isn't like everyone else's. In the process it gets the attention of those who need a special message to help them forge through this



Mark & Candi cruising, 1996

chaotic world. Many people today are going through various degrees of stress. I've had my days as well. But Jesus brings hope. It's the kind of hope that no matter how tough life gets, I know He is there."

In June of 2001, *The Wall Street Journal* hired Kloverstrom to illustrate their article *Summer Wines*. She spent a week painting a still life of wine and sea food. She states, "By the time I was done with that still life, so was the lobster. But it was so much fun."

In 2012 her faith was put to the test. Breast cancer. It brought her face to face with her mortality. She states, "It's funny how when going through one crisis, others pop up at the same time. Both my husband and I felt like we were in the fire getting hit from several directions. I've heard some call this kind of experience 'dark night of the soul.' Because of that experience today I am simply not the same person. It caused me to go deeper with God and at the same time added depth to my art."

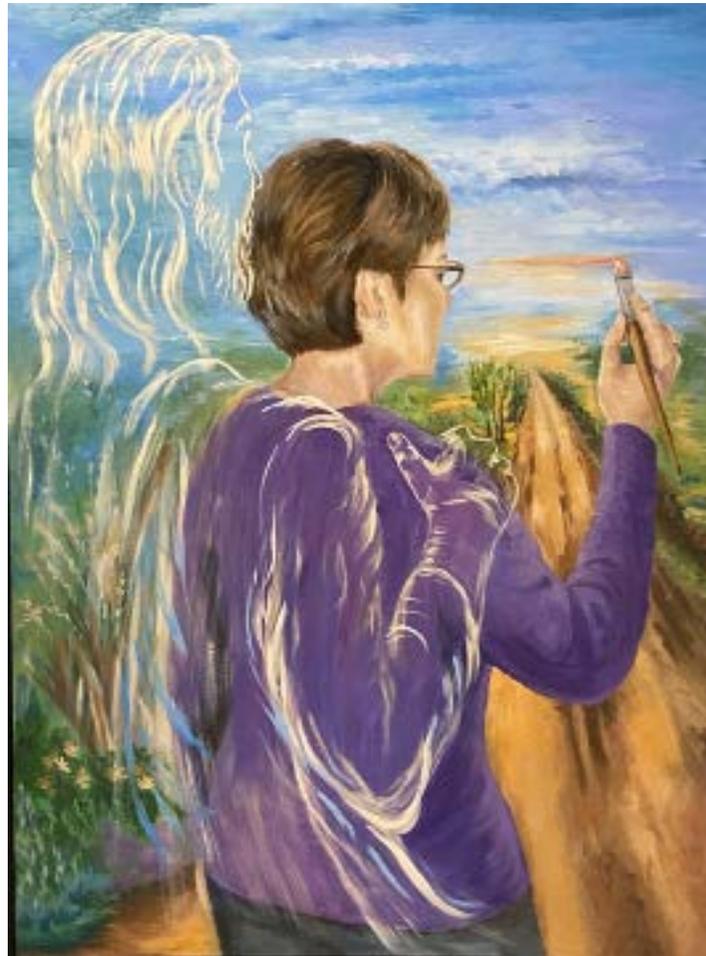
When diagnosed she was working on a self-portrait where she is standing in the middle of the canvas painting her life journey. The Holy Spirit is standing behind her. Before going into surgery, she finished the painting and called it *He Has My Back*. Her prayer partner, Carol, states, "It has been such a blessing to now have Candi and her gift of painting woven into my life's journey. Each of her many canvases that

I have viewed has a unique quality, beauty, and truth being told. As her friend and prayer partner I am keenly aware of her absolute dedication to accuracy. I am aware of the amount of research often invested prior to her picking up a brush. This commitment to excellence and her gift of capturing the depth and light in a subject's eyes makes her work so alive with personality, detail, and emotion. Her Biblical pieces in particular, often inclusive of Jesus, offer me an avenue to feel His heart and His presence, to be drawn. I am prompted to stop and remember His intense thoughts toward me, to examine my day's endeavors, and thank Him for providing me with mercy and abundant life."

February 2017 the Kloverstrom's moved to Pebble Creek in Goodyear, Arizona. Since her move she paints as much as she can in her den/studio. She loves time spent with friends over a home-made pot of soup with her artisan whole wheat sourdough bread on the

side. Of course people are her favorite subjects in her Christian Art.

The people who first influenced her art were the impressionists. But her style has evolved from a painterly style to realism. She states, "Those impressionistic years still find their way into my work. It helps me not go too tight." Today Mark Carver and Andrew Tischler are major influences. She also loves *Night Hawk* by Edward Hopper and *The Scream* by Edward Munch. She states,



*He Has My Back*



“*Night Hawk* and *The Scream* portray many emotions people experience today. My goal is to develop Biblical truths that reveal God’s heart. Too often people have a wrong perception of who He really is. Sadly they walk away.”

Kloverstrom also belongs to the Pebble Creek Art Club, enjoying comradery with fellow artists. Fall of 2017 she won the people’s choice award from the Goodyear library exhibit “Spanning the Generations” with her portrait, *Darin*. Fall of 2019 she won 1st place for *Mark* and 2nd place for *Perplexed*. Fall of 2020, with the on-line Pebble Creek art exhibit she won first place for her oil landscape *Keep Looking Up*.

In 2017 *Viva Magazine* featured her as the cover article with *He Has My Back*. She says, “As a result of my experience with breast cancer God has used *He Has My Back* to touch many lives. It’s the kind of thing that encourages me to keep on painting.”

Long time collectors are Steve and Norma Faust. Steve states, “I have collected Candi Kloverstrom’s paintings since her early days. I enjoy the warmth and depth of her

work. My wife and I also have portraits of each of us and find them to be very lifelike and accurate.

People come into our home and compliment us on one or more of her works we have hanging in the house. I enjoy the portraits, but my favorite are her nature scenes. I also have one of her early career watercolors that is so lifelike, people walk up to it and ask if it’s really a painting. I highly recommend a person shopping for quality artwork to examine and compare her work to others you may be considering. Thank you Candi for the many years of enjoyment.”

There are many influences in an artist’s life. But for Candi Kloverstrom, as her faith evolved and deepened, so did the depth of her art.

*Art By Candi K*

Candi Kloverstrom

(303) 688-0649

Candi@ArtByCandiK.com

www.ArtByCandiK.com