

MACFest's 'festival favorite'

Submitted by MACFest chair Vern Mathern.

The Mesa Arts & Crafts Festival, MACFest, selected a "festival favorite" among its exhibiting artists recently for her eye-catching paintings. We asked the artist, Kathleen Maley, to tell us about her experience and what led her to her passion for painting.

"My artistic journey started with my grandmother Rose. Even though she never painted, she made everything. She taught me at an early age to sew and knit, and I loved to see that I could make something come to life.

"I went to Catholic school and never had any art. But I continued to make things with material and yarn. When I was 48, I did a paint-by-number and that brought my artistic spirit to light.

"I was encouraged by an art teacher at Mesa Community College to take some classes there, and I was hooked. I studied drawing, painting, printmaking, watercolor and master studies. The best lesson my teachers taught was to be myself in my art endeavors.

"I won first place in one of the MCC spring shows and first place in a juried Mesa Art League show. I've had many pieces juried into art shows in Scottsdale, Mesa, Chandler and Phoenix. After MCC, I took art classes at Scottsdale Art School and was offered some scholarships.

"I joined the Scottsdale Art League and the Mesa Art League and have also been juried into the Arizona Art Alliance, which has brought me status as a 'fine artist.'

"I have been teaching at Dobson Ranch in painting for adults and children and have enjoyed the experience. ... My goal is to always improve in many mediums and always try to find other ways to develop my technique. The artistic world is an unending journey. And I plan to keep the discovery going."

Artists and crafters desiring to exhibit their work at MACFest may contact the Mesa Arts Center Box Office at 1 E. Main St. or 480-644-6500. Online registration and space rental: www.macfest-mesa.com.