

NANCY CALDER



ARTIST STATEMENT

"I am a contemporary realist artist that focuses on still-life paintings. Having worked for over 20 years in more craft mediums, Nancy now seeks to paint life into her subjects, a process she finds "absolutely fascination." The compositions I chose to render all have a sense of days gone by. These subjects lend themselves wonderfully to the style of realism and reflect the culture and lifestyle during the heyday of realism. Nancy's images, while realistic, are still romantic with a strong sense of nostalgia."

Nancy was born and raised in Toronto. In the fall of 2017 she relocated to the town of Stratford, Ontario. Previously she had become a well-known feature of the Toronto craft scene producing and successfully retailing a series of whimsical characters using a highly distinctive "Plaster Mache" technique. Towards the end of this almost twenty year period, Nancy joined the Avenue Road School of Art beginning the realization of a long held aspiration towards the rendered image. Within three short years in the fall of 2007, she was ready to commit to the study of realist art and became a student at the Academy of Realist Art.

"I have always been drawn to realism, to create a sense of life and living from a blank canvas or piece of paper. I find the concept of realism, absolutely fascinating. I am always surprised and amused by the degree of dimension that can be achieved, a feeling that one can almost reach into a painting and touch the objects in a still life, or possibly catch the eye of the subject in a portrait. I love both the intensity and vibrancy of the oil paints, yet it can also be such a subtle medium. I choose objects for my still life that appear to have had a life of their own, asking the viewer to wonder how they have found their way to become part of my paintings. My stories are from a moment in time, a little curious and vaguely familiar."

Although her journey didn't begin until later in life when time and finances allowed, it was more than rewarding. Her education started with graphite, moving into carbon, charcoal and finally oil paint. Initially Nancy enrolled into the Academy to pursue her love of the human figure, but as she progressed through the program she became very fond of painting still life. If you were to ask her today, she would say that she is most comfortable in this genre. In the fall of 2013 she earned her diploma. During the two years following her graduation, Nancy became the first female instructor at the Academy. Late in 2015 Nancy left her teaching position in order to become a full time artist.

