

Andy Smith Interview – Historic Kenwood Artist Enclave

By Brian Lynch

This is another in a series of interviews with Historic Kenwood artists as part of highlighting our “Neighborhood of the Arts” and our soon to be Artist Enclave Overlay district.

When did you start painting?

I always had an interest in art and did a lot of sketching in my youth. About a year ago I came across a coupon offering a discount for a painting class at the Dazzio Gallery and decided to give it a try.

Why did you start?

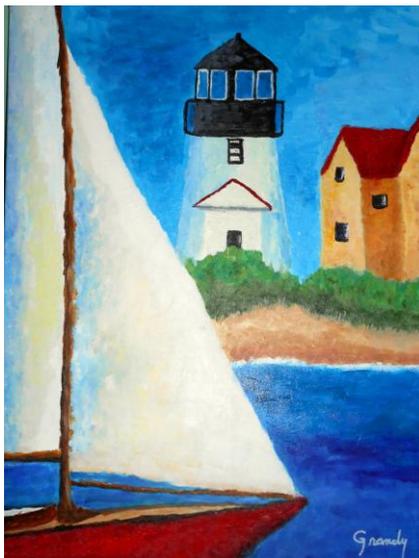
I was looking for a way to spend my retirement and be creative as well.

How has your work developed over time?

It is still developing. Being new to painting I am still trying to find what I enjoy most so I keep experimenting.

What would you call your style?

I am still searching for a style but, find myself leaning toward impressionism. I enjoy painting seascapes and things with a nautical theme: also, landscapes. All lend themselves to that style.



What is your "method"?

I paint with acrylics because they are so versatile. They can emulate watercolor or oil. I paint mostly from photographs taken by myself or friends.

Did you ever feel like giving up?

I think all artists have felt frustration when they first start but, that is just part of the learning process. Every professional was once an amateur.



What's the best thing about being an artist?

So many things; I find the process of creating something relaxing and exciting at the same time. I also enjoy the reaction of people who approve of something I've created.

What's the worst thing about being an artist?

The expense, paint, brushes, and canvas add up quickly.

How do you feel when people interpret your artwork differently?

Art is always up to the interpretation of the viewer. Not everyone will like what you've created. The main thing is enjoying what you do.

Who is your favorite artist?

Gauguin, Van Gogh and the other impressionists are the ones I enjoy most and I try to emulate.



What advice do you have for aspiring artists?

Don't give up. It takes a long time to produce good work. Create for yourself and do not concern yourself with the opinion of others. Everyone will view your work differently.

What else would you like to say?

As you know, I had a hand in creating the "Artist Catalogue" for our association. My goal is to have every artist residing in Kenwood to be represented.