

Kathleen Wilcox

Artist Statement and Biography- 2020

Kathleen Wilcox is a contemporary enamel artist born in Coconut Grove, Florida. Her early years were spent in the tropical outdoors with her father, a naturalist, who worked for Crandon Park Zoo and Miami Seaquarium. Also, her aunt and uncle owned the Miami Sepentarium. As part of her childhood playground, she enjoyed feeding manatees, sitting on huge land turtles, handling reptiles, snorkeling, roaming the Everglades, visiting Seminole villages, and collecting specimens on the bay flats and mangrove swamps. She was surrounded by collections of tree snails, shells, bones, feathers, Indian artifacts, tropical fish, reptiles, and animals. These early experiences with the natural world continue to influence the images in her enamels. Her enamels celebrate the sense of wonder and renewal that she finds in natures gifts. She keeps the inspiration alive as she and her husband kayak the rivers, lakes, and coastline of Florida.

Kathleen's chosen medium of Enamel is an ancient art form of fusing ground glass to metal. The process of enameling involves applying the glass powder to a copper base which is then fired in a kiln up to 1500° F. Each enamel piece is developed in multiple applications, layers, and firings. The piece can be fired approximately 5 to 20 times depending on the design or complexity. Her enamel designs use recurring images of fish, birds, reptiles, insects, blossoms & plants. Intricate details lead the eye into the heart of the enamel. This unique medium offers challenges both technically and artistically.

Since 1986 Kathleen has been working as a studio artist producing a line of enamel jewelry and larger one-of-a-kind enamel wall pieces. Kathleen's award-winning enamel work is exhibited and sold in Invitational Exhibitions, National Juried Exhibitions, art festivals, and in galleries.

Kathleen teaches enameling with over 35 years of experience. She teaches classes, workshops, and private lessons from her studio space in Tallahassee. She also teaches workshops in various art centers throughout the country including Arrowmont School of Art and Crafts in Tennessee.

Her enamel work and teaching research is published in the books "The Art of Enameling", "500 Enameled Objects" and "The Art of Fine Enameling".