

Biographical Information Marcia B. Tanner



Visual artist Marcia B. Tanner, whose large, abstract paintings depicted the world as she saw it, was born on February 6, 1941, in Ada, Oklahoma and died Jan. 19, 2022, in Prescott, Arizona, where she had been living for the previous 10 years. She was 80.

Ms. Tanner started painting as a child and continued throughout her life. She worked in all media-watercolors, pastels, acrylics-but preferred oil painting because she liked to mix her own pigments. In an artist's statement, she explained: "I freely apply color, layer after layer.

The color is very translucent; even with 20 layers, I can still see the weave of the canvas."

On large canvases, often triptychs, she created paintings that she said captured the patterns she saw in her travels around Asia and the Americas. "When I saw a similar leaf shape in Indonesia, England, Italy and Costa Rica, I knew I had to paint it," she observed. "I was working with a marvelous bank of sketches and memories from all the locations. The layering of ideas on the same canvas came from my research and intuition."

Tanner had one-person exhibitions at galleries in Cottonwood, Arizona, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, New York, New York, Bern, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Jakarta, and Bandung, Indonesia. Her work was also presented in group exhibitions in Burlington, Vermont, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Osaka, Japan, London, England, Singapore, Jakarta, and Hong Kong.

In addition to being part of the American Embassy Art Exchange Program, she had works in private collections of Citibank, Kodak, UNICEF, Orion Royal Bank, New Zealand High Commission, Winsor, and Newton Home Office in London.

Marcia graduated from Chickasha (Oklahoma) High School in 1959 and earned a BFA in painting from the University of Oklahoma in 1963.

Her first job was a window dresser at Miss Jackson's, a fashionable clothing shop in Tulsa. She later taught painting at places where she lived: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, and Yavapai College in Arizona.

Marcia's creative energy and warm personality led to all sorts of tangential artistic projects. She produced hand-made jewelry-barrettes, earrings, necklaces-which she sold at jewelry shows on the East Coast under the name Marcia from Moscow, which was the name of her post office in Vermont. She collaborated with a German photographer to create high-fashion calendars for an Indonesian clove cigarette company. She also designed costumes for a theatre production and applied her interior design talents to a bank lobby. Recently she finished a commission for a large wall mural in the Phoenix Sheraton Hotel. And, for more than a decade she had been writing poetry.