



Monday, April 03, 2006

Contact: George Palovich
623/972-0635, ext 26 8:00am—noon
gpalovich@wvam.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judy Cook - biography (Supplied by the artist)

Judy Cook was born in Wisconsin, the only child of a minister and his wife. She has been drawing ever since she picked up her first pencil and drew in her storybooks as a very young child. Her first memory of recognition for her artwork was in the second grade. She was taken to the principal's office, not to be disciplined, but to show the principal a shelf of drawings filled with colorful renderings of the farms and farmlands of her native state. She also remembers only wanting art supplies for Christmas and birthday presents, begging for one packet of colored paper and a box of crayons.

Judy spent all of her growing up years in Milwaukee studying to be a pianist and had little exposure to the world of art. After graduating from high school, she attended St. Olaf College on Northfield, Minnesota, encouraged to major in music. But a chance elective her sophomore year resulted in a degree in art education and launched her career as an elementary and high school art instructor during the late 60s and early 70s. During this time, Judy also did post-graduate work in intaglio printmaking with internationally renowned artist Mauricio Lasansky at the University of Iowa.

It was during the late 70s and early 80s that Cook began to produce her own artwork. She freelanced while raising her daughter and received numerous awards for it. Her early years as an only child afforded her the abilities to become self-disciplined and to work independently. She mounted two one-woman exhibitions and this artwork found its way into many business and private art collections.

Cook's next career stage took her into the world of museums. In the mid-80s she served as Curator of Education at the Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin. She presented at several state and national museum conferences, juried art shows, and was the Coordinator of a master Class taught by internationally recognized wildlife artist Robert Bateman.

Cook was then appointed Director of the Bemis Art School of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. While there she served twice as Acting Executive Director of the entire Fine Arts Center, a multi-faceted facility containing an art museum, a library, an art school and a theater. In 1990, Cook was named one of "Colorado Springs' 50 Most Influential Women," was listed in Who's Who in the West in 1992, and received the 1994 Recognition Award by the Pikes Peak Arts Council. She also completed a masters Degree in Education specializing in the diverse learner from the University of Phoenix. And it was in the Springs that she met and married her husband Curtis Cook.

Cook and her husband moved to Phoenix in 1998. She was Education Coordinator for the West

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



Valley Fine Arts Council from 1998 to 2000. In 1999 she was the Project Coordinator for the first Gallery 37 Program held in the Phoenix area

In 2002, Cook returned to her own artwork. Specializing in colored pencil, gouache, and ballpoint pen, she has attended classes and workshops taught by nationally renowned colored pencil artists Janie Glidow, Robert Guthrie, and Allan Servoss. She is a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America and the Phoenix District Chapter #212 of the Colored Pencil Society of America. Cook began to exhibit her work in late 2004 and took a second place at the statewide CPSA Phoenix District 11th Annual Juried Exhibition *Penciling In*. She also had an artwork accepted into the international juried *Explore This! 3 Exhibition* held in San Diego, California, in 2005. This past November, two of her works were included in a statewide colored pencil exhibition at the Art Institute of Phoenix

Artist Statement:

“I have always loved to draw and the source of my subject matter has usually been themes derived from nature. In particular, I have always loved to draw trees. Their continual twists and turns, their roots reaching deep into the earth, their eternal bending in the wind, their incessant ability to heal themselves from cuts and breaks, and even their inevitable withering and dying have been an endless source of fascination for me. Each one of them is completely unique in form, beautiful in its stalwart resilience, and noble in its boundless reach for the sun’s warmth. For me they have become a metaphor for the human condition.”

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.



“Martha and Emanuel Milton”
colored pencil by
Judy Cook



“Picking Tomatoes” colored pencil by
Judy Cook



“Remnants” colored pencil by Judy Cook



“Sinuate Number One” ball point pen by
Judy Cook

West Valley Art Museum is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Sunday. The Museum is located at West Bell Road and 114th Avenue. With five exhibition galleries, a Museum Store, *Classic Café*, and regularly scheduled education programs, the Museum welcomes all visitors. There is a small admission charge for non-members. \$7 adults, \$2 students, ages 5 and under are free.