

Ripon College 1994 - Artist Statement

I was born an artist. I began to, paint as a young child, and never stopped painting.

My mother, a painter and ceramist, and father, and father, a stone mason and Wisconsin artist in his own right, encouraged me to utilize my creativity.

I attended Ripon College and was greatly influenced by Professor Olypia Ogilvie. Her determination as an artist, a source of color and composition, sculpted me into a painter and colorist. The art department at Ripon enabled me to enhance my own style and values as an artist.

After Ripon I moved to New York City, where I had the exceptional opportunity to work with the late Louise Nevelson. She was my friend and mentor. Nevelson's genius in shape and form were inspiring; I began to utilize patterns and space to create a sense of movement in my paintings. The sense of color I had learned from Professor Ogilvie only added to the multi-dimensional canvases.

My passion to create, to paint and experience with color, keep me alive. I want to create the viewer's understanding of the world by means of the emotion, strength and character of each of my paintings. My grand passion is sharing what I see. What you do with what I see has to be up to you — as personal as my finished canvases are to me.

I incorporate my frames into each painting as part of the canvas — I feel it completes the work, and gives the viewer a better understanding, or introduction, to each piece personally and individually.

I paint from life using models, still-life's and landscapes. There is something which cannot be obtained from a photograph. It does not breathe. A photo only one captures one second; a painting from life can capture an eternity. I feel with any work of art the piece should speak for itself, and to the viewer. The artist may not always be around to explain the action or intent. I hope my work speaks to you.

Lon Michels