

***INNER FOCUS- OUTER GLOW***

*Pencil Portraits by a Group three local Artists*

NICHOLASVILLE, KY, JUNE 25, 2008: The Art Depository presents the pencil work of three local artists, Dana Wolford, Suzanne Erny, and Jennifer Mercer from June 26 through August 2, 2008, with an artist's reception, open to the public, on July 11 from 4 – 8 pm.



Dana Wolford, a self-taught artist with a passion for faces and color, uses colored pencils and watercolors to capture fleetingness of time and our short sojourn here.

Suzanne Erny has an art degree, but spent her early years raising her family and working in creative endeavors such as clothing design. Her portraits are of Native Americans in traditional dress sprinkled with a few cowboys.

Jennifer Mercer, Suzanne's daughter, has benefit of her mother's artistic genes. Mercer's work is comprised of very tight graphite portraits that are often mistaken for photographs.

The Art Depository is currently open Thursday 10 -4, Friday 10 – 7, and Saturday from 10 – 4. Appointments can be made to view the gallery Monday through Wednesday calling 859-885-0106 or email to [gallery@artdepository.org](mailto:gallery@artdepository.org).

## **Artist's statements**

### **Dana Wolford**

For over twenty years I've explored all sorts of mediums, but right now, I'm combining colored pencils and watercolors on rice paper to express this vision. The simplicity of pencil marks and the swirl of vibrant washes of color are just the way that I've chosen to try to say without words what is clearly beyond them.

I don't expect to take portraiture to a new level or to compete with the photographic image; I aspire only to make the subject see themselves in a new way; and perhaps encourage other viewers to see a glimpse of eternity in the process.

### **Suzanne Erny**

I'm just a very late bloomer because although I started out as an artist, raising my daughter and having a more dependable means of income was a priority. Since art school I have come full circle, everything in its own time. I have reached this point through life experience and maturity-I see the world in a totally different aspect and attitude than I did when I was a young, naïve idealistic art school graduate.

Over the years I have channeled my creative energies in so many directions the most fulfilling being clothing design-Even there I started out specializing in bridal and formal and now it's children's and Native American clothing.

### **Jennifer Mercer**

Art is in my blood. Both of my parents were incredibly creative and they passed on that ability to me. Without trying to sound too cliché, I've been drawing ever since I was able to hold a pencil. And drawing has been a lifelong learning experience. Just like an old dog, I still learn new tricks every day. And I enjoy every minute of it.

When I draw a portrait of someone, I do tend to focus on the eyes. I believe that the eyes are the windows of the soul, and if you do not capture that in the drawing, then the drawing is a failure. You do not capture the true essence of the subject. If you do, then you have succeeded and anyone who views the piece will immediately recognize it. And it will seem as if you have captured not just an image of the individual, but also a moment in time.

Another thing I focus on, is trying to create a 3D effect in my drawings. When I draw a subject, I try to think that I am not just drawing the subject to create a 2 dimensional object, but I think of trying to sculpt the subject onto the page, making the viewer think they can look behind the subject.

I truly love my work. I think of it as a labor of love. Each drawing seems almost like I am raising a child. And it brings me so much joy to watch each piece grow and mature as they develop on my drawing table. Each piece has its own individual personality, and hopefully it is the subject. And I only hope that people who view my work see that as well.