

Working to the Zone

Doug Palmer

By Eric Anderson

Working to the Zone represents a retrospective of the work by artist Doug Palmer. It is a sampling of works created over his lifetime as an artist. The exhibit includes prints, drawings, and paintings that are all created within what Doug calls the "ZONE."

Artist all work from some creative state letting their environment and subconscious inform, inspire and infuse the work. Doug's creative state brings forth manifestation of his experiences that center on nature and places. His art is a view of the world that is more about naturalism than realism.

Artist Statement:

I do not do realism. I have done that. I find it fun inventing shapes, textures, patterns, colors using nature as a starting place. Consequently, I see the environment differently than most people. You can see it too. If you look and SEE. Most of my paintings are of places I have been, experiences I have had there. I use acrylic paint in different ways – thinning it gives me a watercolor effect allowing me to apply it in a fluid and transparent way and applying it thickly so that I can create areas of opaque impasto texture.

Bio:

I received my BFA from Drake University. Graduate work from Drake and Iowa State University. In 1965 graduated from the Iowa Military Academy, Officers Commission. As a professional, I have served on many committees and organizations involving art education, serving on the following:

- -State President, Art Educators of Iowa
- -State Art Chairman Parent, Teacher Association
- -President Webster County Pheasants Forever
- -National Accreditation Association
- -Student Teacher Supervisor, Iowa State Art Education Dept.

After college, I taught at the k-12 grade level initially, and then taught classes at Iowa State. I also taught adult and children classes at the Blanden. It is exciting and gratifying to teach students to look, see, and discover the hidden, fun, and visual pleasures in their environment. Many times this brings out revelations about themselves; their inner self comes out of hiding.

I work to put my students in a frame of mind to open that door to the creative zone, to get out of the way, and let it happen. Students continue to surprise me. Many find that inner being and let it out to play.

