

Sally Aldrich

When did you first consider yourself a professional? I knew in high school that I wanted to be an artist. It was either that or music since I played the piano. Both my mom and grandmother were artists and when my mom pushed music, I went to art. And then, I sold my first painting in 1960.

What is your medium? Clay sculpture, pottery, watercolor and acrylic.

What brands do you use? Golden, although they are not inexpensive. I also use Windsor Newton watercolors and Yarka, Russian watercolors from St. Petersburg.

How long have you been in this studio? We moved here in 1989 but I didn't get this studio until we added the addition in 1995. Before that I worked in the basement.

How do you price your pieces? I used to price them too low. You have to keep in mind that a gallery will take 40%. It's tricky because you don't want to price yourself out, you have to find that "perfect price." You want to make the price low enough for people to be tempted to buy it. I also price by size.

How do you come up with titles? I like to come up with amusing titles. They can be a lot of fun. I did a series of rock paintings and some titles were "Rockabye Babies," "School of Hard Rocks" and "Rockettes."

Do you listen to music when you work? Oh, yeah. I like classical, jazz, and jazz interpretations of Bach.

Do you sit or stand? Stand. It gives you a better perspective. Sometimes I'll sit if I'm working on a little detail in clay.

How often do you clean your studio? I'm a neat-nick. Clay makes everything very dusty, so I'm always sweeping and wiping down surfaces.

Where did you get your art degree? I got a Fine Arts degree from Connecticut College. At the time it was a woman's school. I graduated in 1962 and remember feeling very lucky.

Do you work on one piece at a time or go back and forth between a couple? One at a time. Sometimes one in each medium, but it depends. I'm not pressured by deadlines. It's always good to have an idea brewing.

Is there a specific tool you always have with you when you're working? There isn't one, but I do love my Chinese brushes.

Are there any days you don't feel like working? Yes, sometimes I'm just too busy and you have to fit art into your life. It always varies with the seasons, I feel guilty if I don't get something done everyday. I try to do 3 hours a day.

What inspires you? Animals, birds, the outdoors. Recently, I've been painting from a model.

Do you have any advice for young artists? Don't give up. It's not easy, especially if you need to make money from it. But definitely, don't give up.

