

# Twigs & Leaves Fine Art Gallery

Article and background illustration by Dennis Ray



June Rollins, "Walk Your Talk" oil, 8" x 10"



June Rollins, "Guard Duty" oil, 5" x 7"

## Focusing on oils for warm results

June Rollins combines color, texture, and animal attitude into each painting

Interview WITH JUNE ROLLINS

**J**une, how would you describe your art?

**June Rollins:** A blend of representational and impressionistic

**RRM:** How did you get started? Tell us a little about yourself.

**JR:** I was forty-three when I enrolled in a community college continuing education art class.

In 1970, when I was in the eighth grade, I met with my guidance counselor to determine my electives. I told her I wanted to be an artist, and she registered me for Art 101. I still remember how eager I felt on the first day of class, sitting behind a substantial paint-splattered table until the teacher began

telling us what would be required to pass her class. Anticipation turned to fear. The occasional "C" was shaming enough. To get an "F" would be mortifying.

When the dismissal bell rang, I ran to my guidance counselor's office and explained I had been wrong. Art was boring, and I wanted to switch to Home Ec. If only I had told her the truth that it was fear I experienced, not boredom.

In college, the longing to major in art continued, but I couldn't get past the belief that I wasn't good enough. Twenty-two years went by. It wasn't until the Y2K scare in 1999 I thought if the world were going to end, I should at least like to try a watercolor class.

"Dreamscaping" with alcohol inks emerged from a spirit of play in 2009. Its popularity prompted

me to produce five instructional DVDs and write "Alcohol Ink Dreamscaping Quick Reference Guide." I've earned signature membership in the Southern Watercolor Society & Watercolor Society of North Carolina. However, since June of 2017, I've focused primarily on oils.

If I could go back in time and talk to the high school student I was, I would tell her creativity takes courage and to believe in herself. Since that's not possible, I wrote a book "She Lost Her Muse."

**RRM:** I love the way you paint using loose and tight paint strokes in the same painting, which forces the viewer to look where you want them to while also adding movement. Talk briefly



June Rollins, "Emoline" oil, 8" x 10"



June Rollins, "Look Into My Eyes" oil, 5" x 5"



June Rollins, "The Gatekeeper" watercolor, 14" x 21"

**about your style and the mediums you use to express it. What do you love about alcohol inks, oil, and watercolor in capturing your subjects?**

**JR:** With all three mediums, I love experimenting. In watercolor, I vary the water-pigment ratio and work wet-into-dry and wet-into-wet to create a variety of textures and colors.

"Dreamscaping" is like a meditation. It's very centering and relaxing watching the inks flow and colors mingle. With alcohol inks, I work intuitively.

I had always respected and admired oils. I love the workability and possibilities of this traditional medium. I've heard my oils look like watercolors and my watercolors look like oils. Seeing people's reactions to my small animal paintings gratifies me deeply. Their response brings me joy and an eagerness to start the following artwork.

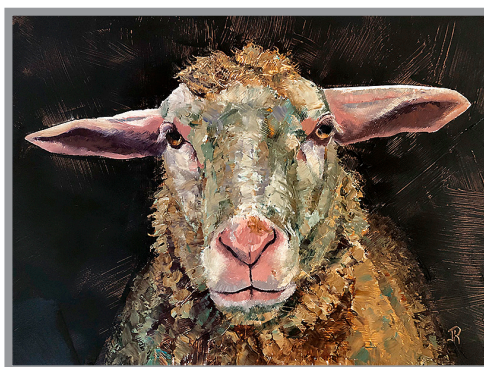
**RRM: The art you create is beautifully textured or has the appearance of texture. Talk a little about your process. Do you work with photos or sketches? And do you have a general idea of what the painting will eventually look like?**

**JR:** Thank you. I love texture. I prefer panels over the stretched canvas for my oils. I enjoy working on linen, gessoed, and oil-primed surfaces. I use Gamsol and sometimes a little walnut oil, no other mediums.

I mainly work from photos, my own, and copy-right



June Rollins, "Bad Bunny" oil, 8" x 8"



June Rollins, "It'll Grow Back" oil, 9" x 12"

free. I like to have a clear visual to study how I want the painting to be and work out the process in my mind before I begin.

**RRM: What is your favorite animal subject and why?**

**JR:** It depends on the mood I want to create. Farm animals can be funny or cute. Barn owls are mysterious. My favorite is the one I'm currently painting and connecting with. When finished with a painting and the viewer responds favorably, that's my favorite part.

**RRM: What are you working on currently, and do you have any upcoming exhibitions or shows you want to share?**

**JR:** I'm currently painting a "Ravens & Crows" series. Part of the fun is researching and learning about both. I hope to have three pieces juried into Mountain Arts Association's 2022 Fall/Winter Show hosted by Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA, this fall. Fingers crossed. [ENQ](#)

**GALLERY LOCATIONS:**

Twigs & Leaves Gallery in Waynesville, NC, River Gallery in Chattanooga, TN, and John C. Campbell Folk School Craft Shop in Brasstown, NC  
[junerollins.com](http://junerollins.com).

**JUNE ROLLINS**

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