



JUDY SUTCLIFFE



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LEFT: JUDY ROLLING SOME BLACK PIGMENT ONTO THE ROLLER THAT WILL SOON BE MAKING A PRINT!

Just the Facts!

Judy Sutcliffe - [Longbranch Gallery](#) - Mineral Point

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and how you came to be where you are today: I've always been an entrepreneurial artist, happy to try many things and learn as I go. I graduated Iowa U 1963 with a double major in English and Chinese, and two semesters of pottery. English majors can learn anything from books, and Chinese majors know how to paint with a brush without

resting your hand or elbow. That came in very handy when I started a pottery business in Iowa, learned to make bas relief collectors plates and hand painted tiles. I made a leap of faith to Santa Barbara and became the only tile muralist there, with a very good business for 17 years, including a large plaque honoring Queen Elizabeth's visit installed in the Santa Barbara courthouse wall. I retired at

age 55 back to Iowa, met my partner Sandy Scott, and in 2000 we bought an old stone building in Mineral Point and opened Longbranch Gallery in 2002. We started Shake Rag Alley in 2004, had lots of energy then, and I found myself teaching all kinds of things like cement and mosaic sculpture, hammered jewelry, and eventually some printmaking



EXTERIOR OF LONGBRANCH GALLERY



TABLE OF PRINTS ON DISPLAY



INSIDE THE FRONT GALLERY SPACE AT LONGBRANCH

Artist Conversation!

Let's Learn a Little More...

What mediums do you enjoy work with?

Currently I'm enjoying printmaking using linoleum carved blocks and simple hand printing of images, one at a time. Years ago, when I was a tile muralist in Santa Barbara, I had a Vandercook letterpress in my garage studio there and making prints was my weekend fun. I still have some of the botanical wildflower prints, I did them in editions of several hundred. I traded the press a few years ago to another artist, and now I work in the simplest way, just carving the linoleum and printing it by hand, putting pressure on the archival paper with a wooden spoon. It's more fun because less equipment and mechanisms are involved. I print just a few at a time and I don't bother with edition numbers because I'm only producing enough to sell in our gallery. I enjoy the linoleum carving process, the different cutting tools, some long Japanese gouges, some short, palm-based gouges.

What kind of equipment do you use while creating your art?

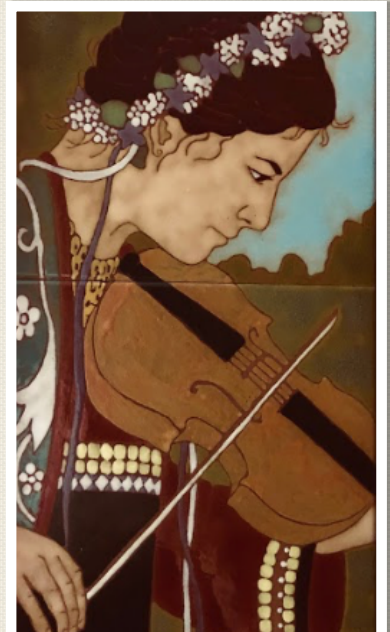
I'm using basic battleship linoleum for most prints. Sometimes I carve small images in rubber stamp material so I can add them to a print in a different color. I use water-based inks, Caligo being the primary one. If I'm showing a class or gallery visitors how to make a print, I'll use a simple Dick Blick water base ink because it will dry really fast and the visitor can go home with a dry print and clean fingers. The only thing I do differently than the many printmakers of the world is that I adhere my linoleum carvings to floor tiles, both for carving and for printing in registration. I use a 12x12 inch floor tile and adhere the smaller linocut to it with strong double sided tape. Thus, it is easy to carve without the linoleum shifting about. And for printmaking, I draw the size of the linocut and the paper directly on the tile with permanent ink, and I set up markers to keep the paper in place. I can thereby print multiple colors fairly well with this simple layout, just changing the linocut for each color.



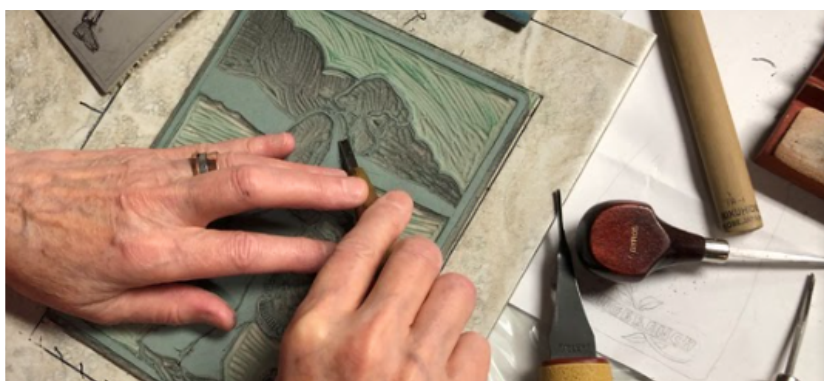
MOSAIC CHICKEN



PRINT OF THE MINERAL POINT HOTEL



TILE OF A WOMAN PLAYING A VIOLIN



CARVING LINOCUTS IN THE STUDIO



JUDY IN A MASK HOLDING ALLEY CAT



ALLEY (THE GALLERY CAT)



IN THE PROCESS OF PULLING A PRINT



THE COMPLETED PRINT
(AKA, THE NEXT STEP
AFTER THE PHOTO ABOVE)



JUDY PROUDLY HOLDING THREE OF HER PUBLISHED BOOKS.

Please tell us a little bit more about your Studio and Gallery!

Longbranch Gallery looks small from the front, but it's actually a big, long building with three gallery rooms at street level and a lower level quite huge, where I have materials and equipment for printmaking, tile painting, wire jewelry making, sewing, sculpting, and just about anything Sandy or I like to work or play with. In the past I've taught Shake Rag Alley classes in the lower level, but I'm pretty much retired from teaching now. In the past few years I've written and published seven books, I'm still an entrepreneurial soul!

Where do you find your inspiration?

I always have sketches for more print ideas than I ever get to carve in linoleum. Often I see and photograph something that intrigues me and that eventually becomes a linocut design. My prints and my smaller card prints are available in Longbranch Gallery, of course. The natural world is always full of ideas. You need only to stand still and look around. Longbranch Gallery features the work of over 50 artisans and our latest addition is our official gallery kitten, young Alley, an amiable rascalion.