

Judy Shepherd Axe

Born in Asheville, North Carolina, she studied briefly with Emil Holtzhauer and attended Converse College before coming to the Ringling School of Art in the early 40's where her main instructors were Milten Leech and Christopher Claris.

Her work has appeared in many national juried exhibitions, including the Southeastern Annual at the High Museum in Atlanta, Annual Mid-Year Exhibition in Youngstown, Ohio and the International Show at Florida Southern. She has had one-man shows at the Asheville Museum of Art, Longboat Key Art Center, The Sarasota Art Association, Manatee Art League, Woman's Resource Center and several at the Leech "Friends of the Arts and Sciences" Gallery. She was awarded First Place in Watercolors in shows at both the Manatee Art League and Local Art Center.

Her primary interest have been her works in Mosaic, being shown in a fine art gallery in Highlands and locally at Hodgell Gallery on Palm Avenue. These are her own designs worked out in a great variety of venetian smalti, glass and ceramic tiles. No grout is used, the pieces being cut and placed tightly together. This is one Art Form, other than Sculpture, that can be used outdoors which is ideal for our area where they are used in patios, pool areas and gardens. Many of these are presently in collections here, on Longboat Key, Casey Key and Siesta Key.

She believes that an Artist should find and record, through whatever media and technique, the beauty that still exists, in a world where much natural beauty is lost each day.

With her husband William, they operated the Interior Shop in Sarasota for almost forty years. She worked as a designer and created many murals and all decorations during this period.