



Meet Gloria Giffords



*Blue Mesa, 8"x10",
oil on canvas, private collection*

I teach:

- Fundamentals of Drawing

My Education:

BFA, MA — University of Arizona, Tucson, plus extraneous classes in Spanish, microscopy, chemistry, and material science.

About Me:

I am a painter, particularly in oil. However, I am also a practicing art conservator, specializing in oil on canvas paintings and polychrome statuary, and in this capacity am a Fellow with the American Institute for Conservation. I also enjoy a joint career as an art historian specializing in colonial religious art and architecture of Mexico. In this capacity I have traveled extensively in Latin America and Europe, curated a number exhibits on these topics, and have written numerous articles and books including *Mexican Folk Retablos*, Albuquerque: U of UM, and *Sanctuaries of Earth, Stone, and Light*, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2007.

In my practice as an art conservator, dealing with works of art from every continent and spanning six centuries, I have been in a unique position to analyze and appreciate materials and techniques used by numerous artisans as well as try and solve problems inherent in their selection and application of mediums, varnishes, and supports as well as the effects of aging and environment. While there is no absolute correlation between being a good technician and a fine artist, I believe that an obligation exists on the part of a competent artist to produce a product of structural integrity. It is this "hat" along with my other "hat" as an art historian that I wear when I produce my own art and council art students and colleagues as well.

I am fascinated with the human figure, particularly portraiture, and capturing the quality of light, color, and forms in the landscapes of Arizona. A two-week Artist in Residence at the Painted Desert/Petrified National Park the fall of 2006 provided a catalyst in helping to understand color subtleties and achieving forms with a minimum of line. I continue taking various classes at The Drawing Studio for the stimulus of association with dedicated and practicing artist/teachers as well as refinement of my own art. I believe the foundation for all art is a firm understanding and practice of basic fundamentals in drawing, painting, and sculpture - all of which entail a commitment on the part of the student to participate and attempt to achieve various levels of competency. An obligation exists as well on the part of the instructor to present material appropriate to the student's capacity, create a stimulating and nurturing environment, and assist the student to achieve to their utmost ability.



Above: *Raoul, 36"x30",
oil on canvas, private collection*

Below: *Wyatt, 24"x18", oil on
canvas, private collection*

