

MADABOUTOURMEMBERS



Zee Beard and Sue Mitchell, standing next to Sue's artwork which is now part of RAM's Permanent Collection.

Sue Mitchell: Philanthropist Extraordinaire

If you live in Riverside, you've probably heard or read about Riverside Personnel Services (RPS). Founded in 1978 by Susan "Sue" Mitchell and Zelma "Zee" Beard, RPS works with companies looking to fill temporary and permanent positions.

Sue received her Bachelor of Arts in Management (with Distinction) from the University of Redlands in 1988 and her Certified Personnel Consultant National Certification in 1990. She uses both to help RPS find jobs for thousands of Inland Empire residents -- an invaluable service in this economy.

It should be of no surprise then that Sue is a philanthropist extraordinaire. Not only is it her business to help people get back to work, she has volunteered time and money to countless community organizations, such as the Riverside Community Hospital, the YWCA, the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, the United Way of the Inland

Valleys, and, of course, the Riverside Art Museum (RAM) as an active artist-member and member of RAM's Acquisitions Committee. And she has the awards to prove her philanthropic bent; among numerous other awards won both before and after, the YWCA chose Sue to be the first ever recipient of the Peggy Fouke Wortz Award for Philanthropic Excellence in 1995.

Sue not only supports RAM by helping our Acquisitions Committee evaluate and accept new art pieces into our Permanent Collection, she has been a patron of the arts for most of her adult life. "The Riverside arts community is a rich one and then we have Southern CA and its many galleries and museums," says Sue. "Many of these artists have become mentors and friends. I hope to join their ranks in a few years."

Yes, Sue Mitchell is a budding artist. While she has been a business owner for over 30 years, her interest in art has always been lurking. In January of 2009, she began her artistic journey by taking a printmaking class at Riverside Community College with Denise Kraemer.



Denise Kraemer, Ellen Kime-Hunt, and Sue Mitchell

"I have been a collector of beautiful objects my whole life. When I create, I work 'til I have something I would want to own. If I like the color and design, I am satisfied [and] not worried if it will please others."

Sue currently works primarily in mixed-media: collage, collography, chine colle printmaking, mosaic, and found objects, striving to create her art in a non-toxic workspace.

Her favorite "found objects"? Rocks. Sue has an amazing collection of small stones of various colors and shapes that she deemed "worth bending for".

“My process is to make the print first and then find the ‘perfect’ rock. I tried the reverse, pulling a favorite rock and then making a print that mirrored the color and design. The results seemed contrived and once I reversed the process, the pieces felt more genuine and true.”

The first artwork Sue ever sold was purchased by Bobbie Powell, former Executive Director of RAM. Feeling like an “official artist” now as she hobnobs with artists like Van Arno (seen below at RAM’s California Kustom reception last year), she happily states, “I love RAM because I can see, make, buy, and sell art in one of Riverside’s finest historical buildings with all my art loving friends.... What’s not to love about that?!”



Sue Mitchell and Van Arno at last year's California Kustom reception.