

Retro Colby
Bill Colby

I taught studio art for thirty-three years from 1956-89 and Asian Art history for fifteen years from 1963-88.

Nature and its great variety; rocks, trees, mountains and water have been my constant inspiration. In working with woodcuts, the wood grain became important as a nature source as well as texture. Combining nature sources into a composition is a challenge and stimulating.

My six decades of artwork have much variety in subject and I create with themes that last from one to three years and often return later. The 1950s were woodcuts of nature, taverns and etchings of family.

The 1960s had watercolors of water, dead birds, baroque architecture and vineyards. Created in the 70s were circular staircases and steps in Rome and India, mythic vases of China and shaped canvases. The 80s themes were feathers, forest, mountains and silk screens.

Themes of the 1990s were canyons, rocks and Sumi paintings. Rain, cosmos and the helix were subjects that inspired in the 2000s. Wood was prominent for its core wood grain and forest boughs. Works of nature were always present and themes do overlap.