

Lucy Dickens - Artist, Storyteller

Lucy Dickens is more than an award-winning artist—she’s a storyteller.

Before she puts brush to canvas to recreate phenomenal scenes, she personally experiences them.

Her fine art, oil on canvas, paintings focus on landscape, botanicals, and wildlife and each piece comes to life as she shares experiences or feelings associated with the art. Not only does she experience each scene, she also captures them in her mind and heart and is then able to give it new life by sharing her personal interaction with each moment, now brilliantly conveyed on canvas. This allows viewers to feel as if they’re on a journey every time they’re in front of one of her creations.

These sights, sounds, “magic moments” are expressed through her work and so is her deep faith in God. This is her inspiration to create praiseworthy paintings, impacting the lives of others, and it is the sentiment woven throughout her life and in all her creativity. She is called to bring beauty, light, hope, and inspiration through her work.



Creating breathtaking paintings and engaging viewers further by chronicling the illustration is why so many are connecting to and buying her work. It’s not uncommon for people to come away from one of her paintings with a sense of being part of it, peaceful, and having testament to divine beauty in the world. This is Lucy’s gift to them. Her intention is to bring this all-encompassing sense of joy to those who interact with her paintings. “Where else can you observe snowfall in a quiet forest, then end the day watching a sunset standing on the rim of the largest canyon in the world!” To her, the Southwest is an artist’s paradise and she is dedicated to capturing this “God-given beauty” on canvas.

Lucy's artistic talents emerged in her early years with her parents—one a photographer, and the other a watercolorist—introducing her to how art can capture the beauty of one's surroundings. It was back then she developed a sharp eye and zeal for the outdoors. She loved watching her mother paint, who was the first person to encourage and inspire her to create. Luckily, her family—avid outdoor explorers—enjoyed backpacking and camping their way through some of the most unspoiled terrains unseen by many. She was inspired to create and began sketching her experiences. Then as an aspiring artist, she found herself studying everything! "The way the sunlight struck the mountain ridges and sparkled across the water, the way the clouds formed and the setting sun bathed everything in warm light are reasons why I've been accused of having my head in the clouds," Lucy quietly laughs, "their accusations have validity as I'm always watching the sky change before me!"

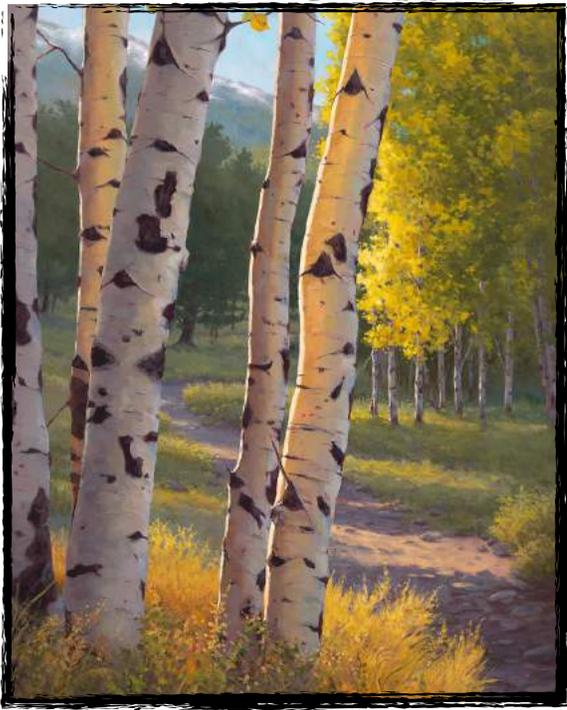


As a young adult, her career path took her down a different road where she worked in banking, investing, and then she and her husband, Richard (her high school sweetheart), started a demolition company, which would become the largest in the state. Working full-time as their company's controller, and helping to raise two children, is where all her time was concentrated until they moved into a new home in 2004. It was then that Lucy wanted to paint a mural on the bedroom wall. To practice, Richard, brought home a piece of scrapped drywall from their business. Lucy opened some simple craft paint and her talents began to spill out. Before long, she had created a tropical oasis and just as importantly, her heart began to open with excitement as she could see her God-given talent emerging before her, though it needed much refining. Richard brought home a professional acrylic paint set and easel and Lucy painted herself into a new world. The reemergence of her artistic talents meant she would step away from the business they grew and begin to focus solely on family and her painting.

"From the first time I put brush to canvas, I knew this is what I was supposed to be doing. This is who I am," she expresses. She admits she does not know exactly where it will take her, she just knows she must paint. She further expresses how the more she paints, a deep passion wells up inside her and fills her with a sense of purpose. "This is my calling," she says.

Oil painting would come later down the road. First she used pencil and charcoal to create. "My sketching was very important to me, soothing to my soul. At that time I really didn't have aspirations of making a career of it, it was just something I enjoyed for me and shared with others," says Lucy.

Prior to painting with oils, Lucy worked primarily with acrylics and developed a unique style she's mastered over the years—but not without in-depth training. She directed her own art education, first by taking workshops and absorbing books and videos about painting, then by taking expert instruction from seasoned art professionals at the Scottsdale Artists' School and more workshops and one-on-one classes. Before long, her early acrylic work was showing in a gallery on Main Street, in Scottsdale, AZ and she realized this work as her new career. But with the limited capacity of acrylics and the desire for more brilliance in the quality of her work, she made the transition to oils. Today, all her original artwork is oil on canvas.



Lucy gained more experience by studying the works of master artists, both current and deceased, such as the Hudson River Valley Artists, Thomas Cole and Frederic Edwin Church. She is drawn to how they handled oils as well as their ability to master light, landscape, and a sense of the divine. She began to incorporate this new insight into her own work. Inspiration is also drawn from the works of current artist, Daniel Gerhartz, for similar reasons, not only for his mastery of light but also the sense of romance he captures.

Lucy deepened her art knowledge with the guidance of Jason Horejs, owner of Xanadu Gallery, who offers guided training through his Art Business Academy. Learning the fundamentals of the art business, how to interact with galleries, market and sell art and set herself up for long-term success were all par for the course to support her rare talent. Upon completing the coursework, Lucy was mentored further by Jason and continues to be, now more than 14 years running. She is currently represented by him at his Pinetop, AZ gallery location, exhibiting mainly her mountain work. She doesn't take any of this for

granted, she knows it is a gift she has to continue to nurture everyday, she must continue to strive to evolve. "I try to be the sponge and learn anything and everything I can. I think you never stop learning and growing as an artist, if you do, you'll stifle," she says.

Lucy creates, which she describes as "expressive or painterly realism" in her studio and gallery, which is connected to her and Richard's home. This dedicated space allows her the freedom to produce art and run her gallery literally close to home! This likely adds to her ability to peacefully and purposefully pour her love and spirituality into her work. Admirers of her creations also visit her gallery, watch her creative process, and purchase her art.

Donna Kublin of Images AZ Magazine notes how "Lucy's realism is not about reproducing a scene, but rather capturing those special moments with all the accompanying magic. In this regard, she has a gift. She is able to reveal spirit and enable viewers to be part of the experience as she makes a special connection with her subject matter and honors its essence. People respond."

It's not uncommon to spot art collectors eyeing and buying Lucy's creations. They're discovering and commissioning her work to bring her uniquely spiritual experiences into their homes. "Knowing the story behind the creative process makes a piece even more special," says art collectors Don and Linda Kesner. "Each artist's view of the world is unique and it isn't often that collectors get to know the inspiration and insight behind each piece."



Art collector Deborah Blanchard gets excited about how Lucy's work brought true beauty into her home "With a sensitive spirit and eye for detail Lucy's paintings come alive, giving you a feeling of being transported to that very setting. Being a woman of deep spiritual conviction, she has a heart for the purchasers of her artwork even to the point of sending prayer up for each person that obtains one of her masterful creations," says Deborah. Truly, it's Lucy's faith guiding her life and art. Sharing light, hope and stories through her work has a lasting and impactful affect on others and she says a prayer at the beginning and end of a creation to ensure this happens in the most positive way.

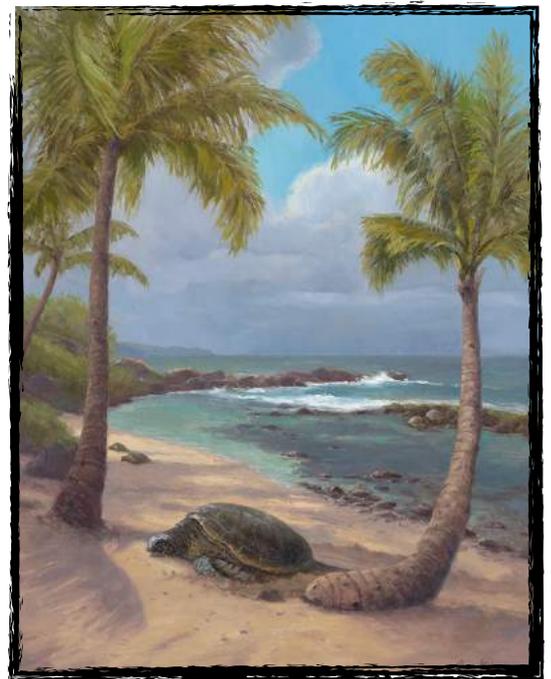


Collectors buying her original pieces are not alone. Lucy has found a way to make her work available to a wider audience by recreating many of her pieces through high quality Giclée prints—a technique for fine art or photograph reproduction to make high quality archive prints. This format is not only bringing joy to more people at affordable prices, but also to Lucy. It thrills her to share her art and stories as she knows it's her life purpose. She creates not just to create, but to bring joy to others. "I believe when I produce an original painting, it is for one special person. I don't know who they are, but they know when they see it, making a special connection to my painting. I love when that happens," she expresses. "Original artwork is special and yet not everyone can have the original. I want to reach others who are moved by my art and stories and I feel strongly that I must, in some quality way, make my art available beyond those who can purchase an original. This is why I offer quality Giclée prints."



Today, Lucy and her husband continue to travel. They love the outdoors, but take it in differently—Richard at a rapid pace and Lucy meandering. They're both enjoying it and compromise by getting to a beautiful destination zooming through the wilderness, only to find a serene spot and slowly enjoy the beauty over lunch. And their travels take them to some of the most amazing places on Earth. New

England, Italy, Spain, Greece, and the Holy Lands have all been experienced, captured and recreated on canvas and in story by Lucy. Each place she visits, she stops and asks "What does the light touch? What is hiding in the shadows? How do they dance?" And before too long, fresh canvases are transformed into amazing artwork. Even closer to home, she has adventured off into some incredible places, which are otherwise unseen. Aspen groves, high mountain lakes, canyons, pine forests, prairies, and the desert during monsoon season, she stops to "give thanks for a scene that has a power, placidity and intensity." These are the fleeting visions she strives to capture so she can recreate these moments in time and share the art and the experience with others. "That's what I do and who I am," she says. "A Fine Art Storyteller."



Lucy's efforts don't go unrecognized. Her work has received awards and has been exhibited and published for the past 12 years. Her work was featured at the Sorrel Sky Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It's here during the Oil Painters of America Western Regional Show that she sold *The Beauty Within*, which also won an Award of Excellence. Prior to this, her work has been featured at various events including: Oil Painters of America Exhibitions, National Oil and Acrylic Painters, International Guild of Realism, Kiwanis Wine Bottle Label Painting where she was awarded first place, Arizona, Cave Creek Museum (featured artist), Scottsdale Artist School, Best & The Brightest Juried Show (purchase awards), multiple Bold Brush painting competitions, Glendale Arts Council Annual Juried Exhibits (multiple years, sales, and awards) and more events and awards for her early acrylic pieces. Lucy's gallery and studio is also a host studio each November for the prestigious Hidden in the Hills Open Studio Tour and Sale.



In October of 2020, her work will be on display at the Oil Painters of America 29th National Juried Exhibition in Fredericksburg, Texas. Currently, her African safari collection of fourteen paintings is on exhibit at the Phoenix Zoo (half of which sold opening night!). She has also shown at International Guild of Realism's Exhibition, in Santa Fe, at the Sugarman-Peterson Gallery and various online juried exhibitions, American Women Artists' Juried Online Exhibition, the Light and Beauty group show at the Holland Gallery (Carefree) and the City of Glendale purchased her original painting *Sonoran Rainbow*, which has been added to their permanent collection.

Lucy has been nominated by Phoenix Magazine for Best Artist of the Valley in 2020. Her fine art paintings have been published multiple times in local media. Most recently she was featured on KSAZ Fox 10 News interview for the Hidden in the Hills Studio Tour, an event by the Sonoran Arts league to showcase artists in the North Scottsdale and Cave Creek/Carefree, AZ area. She and her work were also profiled with a full editorial in *Images AZ Magazine*. She's also been published in *ShoutOut Arizona*, *Voyage Phoenix*, *Thought-Provoker's - Art and Life with Lucy Dickens*; KSAZ Fox 10 News, Cool Homes, featuring home, studio/gallery and artwork; *Masters Secrets* video interview with Kathryn Lloyd; and other publications including the *Hidden in the Hills Open Studio Tour program* (cover artist), *American Art Collector*, *Southwest Art Magazine* (multiple articles), *Informed Collector*, *City Sun Times*, *The Glendale Star* and *Desert Foothills Chronicle*.

Lucy's gift is profound as is her appreciation of it. She thanks God every day for helping her realize her divine life purpose and how to share it with the world. She sounds unique, like no other, and in a way she is. But she's also like most people around the world. She wakes up each day and goes to work, and hours later assesses the productivity of her day and plans for the next. Only with Lucy's work, we all get to enjoy it.



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