



September 30, 2021
Joanne Gallery, Class of 1977

September's alumni spotlight features Joanne Gallery from the Class of 1977.

Joanne and her family moved to Arizona from New York City when she was 3 years old. After making the move from Tucson to Phoenix at age 8, Joanne attended St. Gregory Catholic Grade School prior to Bourgade.

Staying focused on school and academics proved to be a rewarding decision as Joanne was offered two scholarships as a Bourgade senior, one for art and the other for academics. Since she was young, Joanne always had an interest in art, though sometimes to her parents' dismay when her bedroom walls turned into a canvas. However,

following her father's wish for her to become a lawyer, Joanne took the full-ride academic scholarship to Arizona State University. She graduated in 1981 with her bachelor's degree in business.

After ASU, Joanne enrolled in a work exchange program and was headed to New Zealand where she lived for 5 years and became a personal trainer and gym manager. Upon moving back to the United States, Joanne got into real estate and began her family by having two sons. As her sons grew up, Joanne got back into personal training, while still doing art as a hobby, and she noticed that her clients were taking an interest in her artwork. In 2000, she decided to pursue art full-time as a career.

Over the past 20 years, Joanne has experienced incredible success. In 2010, SRP solicited her talents to paint an old refrigerator for an advertising campaign. The refrigerator traveled to Country Thunder, the famed Arizona country music festival in Florence, Arizona. Joanne's fridge was signed by various country musicians including Keith Urban. She was featured in the SRP campaign commercial and the fridge ended up traveling around the country visiting science centers. Also in 2010, her piece "Mahala" was featured on the cover of Vortex Magazine and she has shared her work at a variety of highly-regarded venues and art shows, including a 6-piece exhibit at the Phoenix Art Museum in 2018.

Joanne's art is very unique due to the techniques that she uses. Where many artists use alcohol-based inks, Joanne uses acrylics and inks in a watercolor technique, while also using a style called "pour paint" which requires the canvas to be flat. Her early work focused heavily on flowers and nature but she has since transitioned to more animals. While taking art classes under her mentor, Robert You, at Scottsdale Community College, Joanne painted a beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe piece which she has since donated to Bourgade to be put on display.

Congratulations to Joanne on all of her success. If you'd like to see more of Joanne's work, check out her website and social media accounts! If you're local to Arizona and would like to see Joanne's work in person, you can check out her exhibit at The Finer Arts Gallery in Cave Creek.

www.jlgallery.com (website)

@jomaxartist (Instagram)

@joannelgallery (Instagram)

JLGallery (Facebook)