

Byron Carr



"Chadwick Marsh" - a 24' x 30' oil painting by Byron Carr.

IN THE OPEN AIR

The Works of Byron Carr by Jane White

Have you ever stood at the edge of a pond or a small lake on a clear day, when the air is absolutely still, and gazed at the unmarred reflection of surrounding trees, rocks and sky? It is a moment that is both peaceful, and because it is uncommon, memorable. Perhaps you will notice, as I did on such an occasion, the sudden appearance of a thin, silver line, etching the water's surface, as a beaver swims lazily in the distance, underscoring the tranquility of the scene. That experience came to mind immediately, the first time I saw a painting entitled, "Chadwick Marsh." It evoked reality with a luminous quality that made it stand out from surrounding works of art. It is a good example of how a skilled artist can share an impression of a moment in time with all who look at his painting.

Byron Carr, the artist who created "Chadwick Marsh," lives in a house situated atop the banks of the Contoocook River.

It is the same house in which he grew up, and where his studio is now located. He is an accomplished artist who has enjoyed drawing since childhood. Once you get to know him you'll realize that creativity is and always has been, an integral part of his personality. During his youth, at a time when youngsters enjoyed simple pleasures such as exploring the river, and surrounding countryside, or sharing with friends, an imaginary ride in an old, abandoned truck, he also spent many solitary hours drawing pictures. It was an interest that continued into his teens. While a student at Hopkinton High School, he completed a Famous Artist Course for Young People. After he graduated from high school, he attended Vespar George School of Art in Boston, where he studied commercial art for the next three years.

After completing the program in commercial art, and despite his academic success

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and promise as an artist, he returned to Central New Hampshire, and entered the building trades. Nevertheless, his artistic training served him well in the carpentry field, in as much as he was able to put his ideas on paper, enabling clients, or potential clients to see what they were getting. During the next few years, he married, started a family, and "drifted away from art." That changed however, in 1987, when his daughter was two years old. He began working on a children's book that he had started while attending art school. Entitled DOODLES, it is a cleverly conceived book, that teaches drawing as well as verbal skills. It was written and illustrated entirely by Byron, and was published in 1988. He has since used DOODLES for inspiration, when visiting elementary schools, to work with children interested in drawing. After the publication of DOODLES, he completed a two-year correspondence course with the Institute of Children's Literature.

By 1992, Byron was working from 6:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. maintaining twelve office buildings, on Main Street in Concord. Given a few free hours in the afternoons, he once again became interested in art, and began working, throughout the rest of that year, to perfect his basic drawing skills. Preferring the outdoors, he roamed

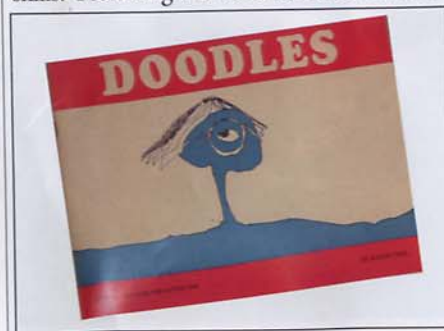


Byron Carr holding a 6" brush that he uses, with "The Calm After", a 4' x 6' watercolor painting.

the area, looking for objects of interest and often sketched large, gnarly, old trees. He also began to paint at that time, enthused after taking a week-long watercolor workshop.

In January of 1993, he submitted a painting, for the first time, to the Thorne-Sagendorff Regional Show, a juried event. That submission provided him with his first award, and his first sale. There have been many awards since that time, including a First Place and a People's Choice Award from the Sharon Arts Center, as well as the Costello Award from the New Hampshire Art Association, and the 2000 Theme Award from the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society. If you have an opportunity to view his paintings at his studio or at a gallery, you will understand why his work has been critically recognized.

Byron's growth and success as an artist has continued. During the 1990s, four of his paintings depicting waterfalls were purchased by the State of New Hampshire, per-



"DOODLES" - an imaginative children's book.

