

Cheryl French's Biography

*Cheryl A. French
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I was born in Seattle, Washington. I began making art in my mid-thirties, after someone gave me a set of watercolors. It's been a fascinating exploration ever since.

I studied drawing and printmaking through the University of Washington Extension program. I studied painting, composition, color theory, perspective, figure drawing and painting and much more at the Seattle Academy of Fine Art (currently the Gage Academy). I explored printmaking through Sev Shoon in Seattle. I studied landscape painting with Ian Roberts and composition and painting with Michael Howard.

My work is on permanent display in the Children's Room of the Albany Main Public Library. Three 10'x 2' square columns painted in 2010 show the places in children can go through books – stories, countries, scientific discoveries. Three additional columns were added in 2013, 4 inches wide and 8 feet tall – quite a compositional challenge. These allow children to measure their height compared to historical figures and animal, identify Willamette Valley birds and learn about color mixing.

I have also shown my work at the Albany City Hall (2007 and 2013), at the Albany Painting Enthusiasts shows at LBCC and the LaSalle Guistina Gallery, in various venues arranged by the Corvallis Art Guild, and at the Albany Art and Air Fair.

I am currently the At-Risk Youth Art Education Coordinator for The Arts Center in Corvallis. I work as a teaching artist in the schools, and through The Arts Center's Globetrotter art camps. I also taught art at Santiam Crossing, an outdoor residential school for troubled teens.

Prior to moving to Albany in 2004, I was a labor union lawyer. I graduated from the University of Washington Law School in 1984, and from Stanford University, with a degree in Sociology in 1979.