



KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly



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Rose Basile

Rose Basile **ALIVE WITH COLOR**

Rose Basile came late to art, but the workings were always there, the absorption of her life experiences and an ever-looking, seeking eye. Born to Neapolitan parents, Rose Basile was surrounded by art from the start and was encouraged to join in the tradition. She holds vivid childhood memories of her Aunt Jenny, with paints and a stepladder in search of a blank wall. Murals were Aunt Jenny's specialty. No family wall, no church, bar or bakery was safe from her flourish. You can see Aunt Jenny's genetic touch in Rose Basile as she whirls you around her home, not a spot of white to be seen—all paintings. That is, those that are recent or too beloved to sell, because all the others, yes, *all* are sold. The carefully catalogued collection can be seen accompanied by a long series of red dots—sold—and a few N.F.S. ("not for sale").

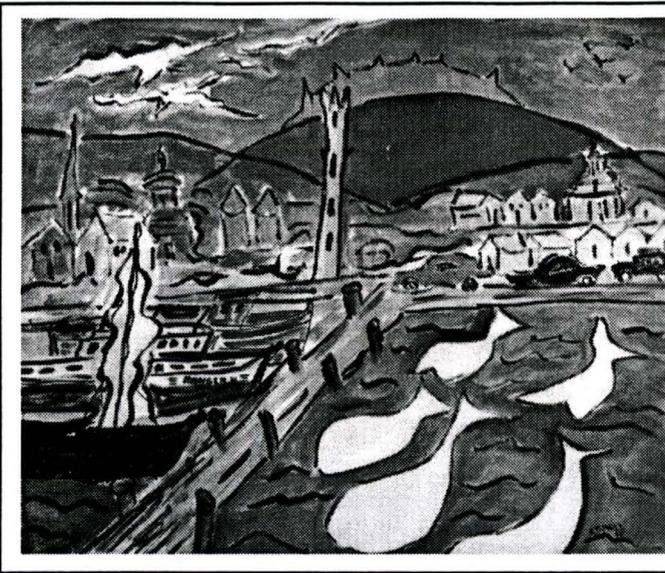
The fishermen series catches you immediately—a second influence in Rose's life. Rose fished the Jersey shore with her father through her youth. "My father would fish all night and go right to work the next day. We loved fishing. When I was 21 my Dad gave me his Shakespeare reel, a fly rod, his hip boots and a book of instructions. You don't need any of those fancy schools. I taught myself. We used to make our own bamboo poles. My love of fishing and watching working fishermen leads directly to this fishermen series. I lived right on the Chatham spit and watched that timeless work going on and with the fishing industry in trouble I felt compelled to record those scenes. I love them and it's hard for me to sell my fishermen. I paint in series: "Cafés" series, "The Surf Club," "The Bradford." I'm doing "P'Town Dune Belles." I sell them all, but if it's a fisherman, it takes me years to sell him.

"I always did watercolors but when a friend died and willed me her paints I went to the next step—oils—and that's when I started painting seriously. I decided to move to Provincetown where I would be surrounded by art and artists, where the art schools are and to paint the rest of my life. When I travel now,

I travel as an artist. I am always involved in art now. I paint a lot and any day I don't paint, I read about art. I visit galleries and museums. I'll watch a video. I'm always working at my art. I have my garret upstairs and that's my sanctuary. I'm not overpowered by art school or formal classes. I'm more primitive. I took one class in painting, one in drawing and then I said 'I'm going out on my own'."

Rose Basile credits Sal Del Deo and Joyce Johnson as encouraging influences.

"You paint who you are. It's the colors people love in my paintings. They're alive! I love the high color of P'Town. Look at this one, the Pier, the Hindu and a whale watching boat here, whales on the other side, the Monument, the dunes, the sun.



Look at all that color. People love it. It's my view. There aren't whales at the pier, but look at that painting, it's alive! I'm a modern painter. I guess I would call myself an expressionistic folk painter. I paint a little of what I see and a lot of what I feel about it. It's not a rendition; it's just mine. It's my expression of what I see. My composition makes P'town a little different. You either have it or you don't. I'm just sorry I didn't start painting at 21. Then I tell myself 'Don't be sorry, just do more today'."

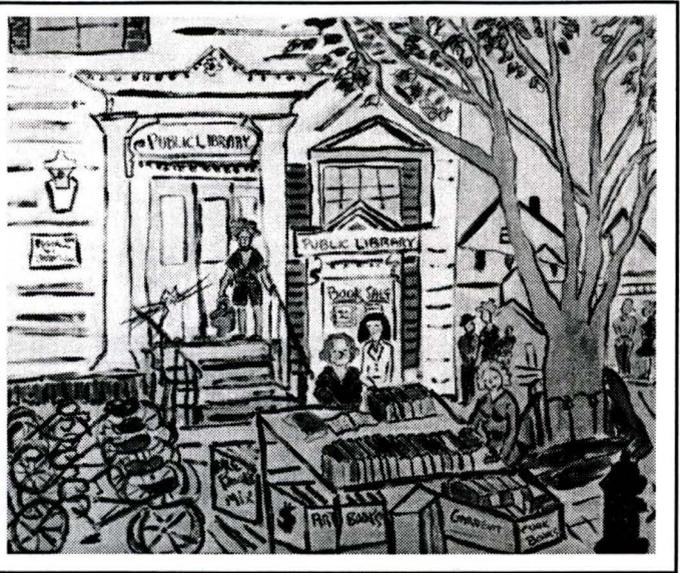
Rose Basile's favorite painter is Karl Knaths and she will travel wherever to see his work. She "loves" Marsden Hartley's figures but states that William Johnson is perhaps her favorite.

"I'm not a prolific painter. I may do 12 paintings a year. It looks like I paint fast and I do at the end, broad, open strokes. When I was at the Boston Museum School studying watercolor, the teacher would put us on a five minute timer. He would tell us 'Let the viewer finish the painting; don't dot every ?'. I loved it. But I have a meticulous way of working towards a painting. It's more complicated than the whimsy you see. When I first get an idea for a painting, I sketch it a lot. Working on different pieces of the final image. I'll draw each part over and over again. I then like to render the image in color using markers or watercolors. Once I've found a satisfactory design and colors then I start on the actual oil painting.

"Tacked on my studio wall is my favorite quote, 'Technique

is the craft of painting but art is in the expression.' I try to apply that to my painting and when I do, I get a winner! I don't have great techniques, I'm going to let my techniques catch up with me. What I have is ideas and I do have ideas! I have a goal to be known, to be remembered as a P'Town woman painter. It's a small local goal but it's what I want."

Rose Basile credits the Provincetown Art Association with giving her the opportunity to show her art in a gallery setting. The Berta Walker Gallery quickly hung Basile's work. Her work has also been shown at the Fine Arts Work Center, The Heritage Museum, Cortland Jessup Gallery, Castle Hill in Truro, The Public Library and several restaurants. Everything sold, everything.



You have the chance to own a Rose Basile. Rose was commissioned last year to do a painting of our Public Library to be issued as a postcard. A companion piece for Rachel Brown Geises' famous photo of a large sheepdog left waiting outside the library door, entitled "Yearning for Learning". Rose Basile chose to render a Friends of the Provincetown Library Book Sale. Complete with bikes, books, the wonderful and missed Linden tree, all the local "suspects" who run the sale, including librarian Debbie DeJonker-Berry in front of the façade of the fourth oldest consecutive running library in the United States. So many reasons to want this painting.

The painting was so successfully received that after the post card, a poster was made and best of all, Rose Basile has donated the painting to be auctioned Women's Week as a 100% donation to the library. Try for it, if you don't succeed you can always enjoy a poster and postcards.

If you want an introduction to Rose Basile's work or if you are already an admirer as most of us are, please join the crowd at Berta Walker's Gallery, 208 Bradford Street in Provincetown on September 24th at 7:00PM. Works by Rose Basile will be showing through October 15th, so you will have the opportunity to enjoy these vibrant impressions of Provincetown more than once.