

## Dick Ferrer Captures Local Landscapes in Acrylics and Oils

Landscapes and lifestyles inspire Brown County painter Dick Ferrer.

“I’ve traveled to Arizona, New Mexico, South Dakota and North Carolina to observe and transfer my interpretation to the canvas,” he says. These landscapes have been rendered in dramatic compositions that call to mind soft pastels, wood block prints or fine art batiks – but they are all acrylic paintings.

Being so interested in landscape, it’s not surprising Mr. Ferrer was drawn to Brown County.

“I live surrounded by inspiration,” he says.

His *plein aire* renderings of the local area often focus on things that bespeak transience in the world around him: vanishing landmarks, old barns and structures, and the homes of local artists who have passed on.

His interest in capturing the signs of vanishing American lifestyles and historic places might be influenced by his education. After serving in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1971, Mr. Ferrer attended Indiana University, majoring in Political Science with minors in both Anthropology and History.

It might also be an extension of his interest in tribal art.

“It led me down a path that affects my life as well as my art,” he says.

Mr. Ferrer’s artistic endeavors led him to American Indians from Wounded Knee, Pine Ridge, South Dakota. After extensive exposure to various ceremonies, he was honored to participate in the Sundance at Kyle, South Dakota from 1992 to 1997. He continues to assist with ceremonies as a singer and drummer when asked.



“I was doing tribal art exclusively at the time I moved to Brown County,” he says.

Although now he incorporates a large variety of other themes in his work, he hasn’t given up tribal influences. Currently, he is planning a new series of paintings that feature ravens and crows.

“I have a lot of irons in my artistic fire,” he says.

That’s one reason Mr. Ferrer never finds himself “stuck” creatively. Another is that he never has enough time to work on all the projects he’d like to.

“I cram artwork into whatever available time I have,” he says. “I’m still working toward making art my full time career.”

Meanwhile, he works full time in Indianapolis and paints on nights and weekends. In addition, he owns and runs Ferrer Gallery in downtown Nashville with his wife Dixie, also an artist. How does he manage to get his art done?

“When I’m cultivating a piece,” he says, “I tend to devote the time necessary to complete the work.”

It also helps that most of his work is *alla prima*, or completed at one setting. This style lends itself well to painting on location, and to participating in paint-outs, timed outdoor art contests. Anyone who wants to watch him work can usually find him at the T. C. Steele Outdoor Art Contest or the New Harmony Paint Out.

He’ll also be demonstrating his work in his home studio during the Brown County Studio and Garden Tour, held each year during the last weekend of June.

More information about Dick Ferrer and his work can be found at [www.ferrergallery.com](http://www.ferrergallery.com) or at [www.BrownCountyStudioTour.com](http://www.BrownCountyStudioTour.com).

by Michele Heather Pollock

