

May 4 through July 20, 2025

Sensorium

mixed media works by
Rodney Wood
of Hoisington, Kansas

Artist Statement

Sensorium: the parts of the brain or the mind concerned with the reception and interpretation of sensory stimuli

I am often asked questions such as these: "What media did you use? How long did it take? What does it mean?" And my favorite: "Where do you get your ideas?"

This exhibit includes older work and new pieces making their debut. My life has not been linear nor planned. What a long and strange trip it continues to be... My artistic inspiration has a wide range of influences based on a variety of life experiences and an incurable curious spirit. *Sensorium* is a gathering of art work that came into existence via my desire to share the result of that accumulation of stimuli within my head, heart, and soul.

My barometer of success is that I seek to engage, attract, and perhaps mystify the people who are looking at my work. I aspire to create art with which viewers can experience a connection. Perhaps a piece will tell a story or capture a moment that the viewer finds compelling. Does the painting pique one's intellect or does it elicit an emotion? I am fascinated when a piece touches a viewer's heart. I am most energized when an art onlooker stops long enough to ponder their own mind, heart, or, ideally, their very soul.

"The job of the artist is to always deepen the mystery." - Francis Bacon

My inspiration arrives via my desire to explore the human condition. I am fascinated by people's feelings, courage, curiosity, and life experiences. For me, human emotions are far more inspiring than their thoughts. My paintings are my inner voice softly screaming with the hope of being heard. That ideal requires me to look beyond my eyes and compels me to visit my own sensorium. The greatest reward is when a piece results in an emotional response – be that smiles or tears or bafflement. Enigma and mystery open doors to unexpected thoughts and feelings. Being part of that process motivates me to make art and challenge myself to do so in a unique way.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my art with people - - be they art lovers, friends, strangers, or innocent bystanders. It is that circumstance which allows me to be deeply appreciative of people taking the time to look at my work.

Biography

Rodney Wood is a Colorado native who, for years, followed his nomadic spirit by living around the western United States. As artist, educator, arts advocate, and activist, he has worn many



The Muses by Rodney Wood

hats. His long-held passions have been focused on making art and an incurable desire to encourage others to do so as well. He has taught art at all levels within various environments and disciplines. Having served on numerous art-based boards and steering committees, his devotion to the arts has been a lifelong endeavor.

His resume includes being Director of the Business of Art Center in Manitou Springs, Colorado, and Director of the Fine Arts Exhibition at the Colorado State Fair. He has worked in, owned, and/or managed numerous art galleries. He has served as curator for over 200 art exhibitions and has judged/juried an additional 50-plus shows, exhibitions, and arts-based competitions.

His fascination with the uncommon also led to his time as a coach/trainer for an Olympic fencer as well as modern pentathlon assistant coach/youth coordinator at the United States Olympic Committee. His artistic passion had value in the arts as well as within athletic and business environs. An incurable desire to practice and promote the value of new ideas and exploration led him to being an expert consultant in the field of creativity. His workshops and presentations are very popular within both public and private sectors. His talents in this area have been utilized by educators, businesses/corporations, and non-profit organizations – arts, social services, sports, and others. Most recently, he was the founder, director, and event organizer for ArtoCade (art car festival) annually held in Trinidad, Colorado. This wildly successful and nationally respected festival proved to satisfy Wood's ongoing community-building spirit and as an outlet for his incurable obsession with creativity and uniqueness both as an art car promotor and "cartist." ArtoCade won the Colorado Governor's Award for "2015 Best Festival."

Wood received the Trinidad City of Champions Award given by the Trinidad Community Foundation for leadership and community-building efforts through arts and tourism related activities. The artist was honored in 2018 by being chosen to receive the prestigious "Colorado Governor's Leadership Award" for his community building actions via the arts, education, and tourism development. These successful endeavors led to the establishment and implementation of the Art Cartopia (art car museum). This unique museum quickly became a highly acknowledged and attended art-based roadside attraction. While under his wing, Art Cartopia promoted the arts and creativity to a very diverse audience, along with inspiring artists and non-artists of all ages and ethos. After 10 years he retired from his position in January 2022. Along with his family, he moved to Hoisington, Kansas, in early March of that year.

As an artist, his early artwork was dominated by 3D media such as jewelry/metal-smithing and sculpture. Photography has also long been an active part of his repertoire. In 2004, an unexpected transition occurred as his art voice shifted to become completely focused on oil painting. This shift has resulted in a long list of exhibitions, awards, and publications. His reputation has evolved with his work now being on display and collected across the country and internationally.



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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.