

May 4 through July 20, 2025

Bold Color

paintings by

Virgil Penner

of North Newton, Kansas

Artist Statement

Virgil Penner is known for his ink drawings of homes and buildings with detailed architectural perspectives. Since retiring in 2009, he has focused on acrylic landscape paintings.



Green Tree/Pink Bush by Virgil Penner, oil on canvas,
18 x 24 inches

Penner studied art under Marie Orr for four years at Newton High School. Miss Orr turned out professionally trained students throughout her teaching career at the school.

Penner's paintings are bright and colorful. He constructs them from memory and does not paint on location or from photographs. By doing this he feels he can develop a better sense of balance and movement in his paintings.

Additional paintings can be viewed on his website at virgilapennerart.com.

Biography

Virgil Allen Penner was born in Newton, Kansas, in 1938. He currently lives at 32 Lakewood Circle in North Newton. Penner attended Lincoln elementary in Newton for his first and second grade years. His family then moved to a farm east of Newton, where Virgil attended Candy School District 59 from the third through eighth grades. It was a one room school with 10 students in eight grades. He completed Newton High School, graduating in 1956.

Penner enrolled in Bethel College, graduating in 1960 with a BS degree in industrial arts. He received a master's degree in Education from Wichita State University in 1966.

After college Virgil worked for 3 years in a psychiatric hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana, as an industrial therapist. Returning to Kansas, from 1964 through 1971 he taught at Bethel College and coached for seven years. From 1971 through 1983 he began a teaching and coaching assignment at Wichita North, West, and Heights high schools in the Wichita school district.

From 1983 through 2000 he returned to Bethel College as Alumni Director and Annual Fund Director. In 2000 he took a position as CEO of the Newton Chamber of Commerce, serving until 2009. He has been retired since that time, spending all of his time painting.



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