



**Drawspace.com is proud to introduce**

## **Cindy Wider**

Art educator, art curricula designer, gallery-represented award-winning artist, and author of *Paint in Your Pyjamas*

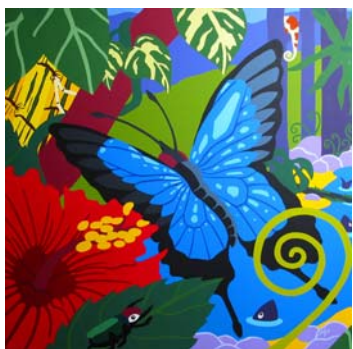
### **Art philosophy**



I believe that almost everyone has the natural gifts needed for learning to draw and paint, and that art has the ability to heal and help us to reach our full human potential. Art is the missing language that can bridge the gap in communication when words are not enough. It is my life purpose to share my love of art, through inspiring and motivating others to realize their natural gifts for drawing and painting.



My passion for helping others to learn to draw and paint comes from the joy and excitement I experience through the process of creating art and my desire to share that feeling! I stumbled upon my natural gifts for art at the age of 23 years and wished I had known about it sooner.



Cindy Wider currently resides in Noosa on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, Australia with her husband who is also an Artist, and two daughters aged 2 years and 4 months.

### **My story**

At the age of 23 years (sixteen years ago), I purchased my first business – a hairdressing salon. I was a qualified hairdresser and really loved my career. Several months into the business I developed arm pain and just nine months later I went to get out of bed one morning and fell to the floor. For three months I laid in bed unable to walk further than the toilet and back, it took months for the doctors to diagnose me with M.E./Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. That was the lowest point in my life, when I made the choice whether or not I wanted to live. Death was not an option for me, because I definitely wanted life! I decided enough was



enough and gathered all my will power to set myself goals to get to the letterbox in my yard, (which was on a hill mind you.) When I got there two weeks later I cried my eyes out. Imagine what the neighbors must have thought; I just received a huge phone bill or something. That was the very first time I understood the power of goal setting.

At that moment as I leant on the letter box for strength, I said to myself, "If I can do this, I can do anything. What is it that I really want to do more than anything else in the whole world?" In a wave of immense emotion, it was revealed to me that I was desperate to learn to draw and paint.

As a child I had given up hope of ever being able to draw, believing I just wasn't talented enough. At the age of fourteen years, I discovered my love of writing instead and had my first story published. At sixteen years of age, with my parent's encouragement I then went on to enjoy a career in hairdressing until the age of 23 years when I was diagnosed with M.E and left slightly disabled for seven years. I am grateful for this time out that led me to a wonderful journey of change through art.



Once I had decided to learn to draw and paint, and realized that anything was possible with the power of goal setting and will-power, I had a renewed sense of hope. Painting and drawing became my form of 'therapy.' Suddenly I could paint the most amazingly realistic images and friends and family began to want to buy my art. They bought my materials so I could paint for them. I enjoyed realism for about four years until I grew restless with the limitations; a lack of my own copyright free photography was a huge limiting factor but I was also frustrated with the limitations of reality and not being able to express my true inner feelings.



Gradually a unique art style began to form, I think it was out of rebellion towards realism because I thought to myself, "What if I did the exact opposite to realism and painted with no detail at all! At first it felt scary and daring, back then I thought that the ultimate goal of an artist was realism and didn't think people would accept the new hard-edge style that I was discovering. However much to my delight, my new art style gained recognition through the local South Australian Country Arts Officers and eventually support from the whole town.

I had realized that in order to make original paintings that looked good – balanced and pleasing to the eye, I needed to study art. I discovered 'Art Instruction Schools Inc.' in an advertisement in an art magazine and enrolled in a seven-year part-time Diploma studying in my 'Pyjama time' from



home (in the small blocks of time.) A highly reputable correspondence art course, this was the same course Charles Schultz undertook (creator of the famous Peanuts Comic Strip – with Snoopy and Charlie Brown.) I finally graduated in 2005! There were 27 units and each had to be graded by my two tutors; Ron Revitt and Pauline Jonach who both resided in Sydney (hence the long duration of the course, it generally took three months turn-around for each unit to be completed.) I loved the positive feedback on my course notes and I always applied the instruction I was given so my art improved dramatically.

After eleven years of serious art study and finally graduating with a Diploma in Art, I went on to become one of the town's leading artists with my artwork gracing the walls of many of the major hotels, corporate boardrooms and private homes as well as selling overseas. I began tutoring at the local Technical and Further Education College in 1998 and then went on to establish the largest on-going private art tuition school in Port Lincoln, then in Noosa.

Balancing art tuition with commissioned work and artworks for galleries is a wonderful way of life for me. I will continue to share my knowledge with others no matter how successful my own art career becomes, because the greatest lesson I have learned so far in life is the joy of giving back. I believe we are given knowledge to share and pass on to others. Teaching art is my way of saying 'thank you.'

## Paintings and drawings

You can view more of Cindy's recent paintings at:

<http://www.thecoopergallery.com.au/wider/wider.htm>

You can view Cindy's student's artworks at:

<http://paintpj.com>

## Art related work experience

2007: RADF government grant to tutor in Goondiwindi Queensland Australia

2007: Tutor Illustration House South Bank Brisbane Queensland

2003 to 2007: Co-founder and Tutor 'StuartCindy Art' tuition business Noosa Queensland

1998: Chairperson Artyrea Gallery-shop Port Lincoln South Australia

1998 to 2002: Founder and Tutor 'CAS Art' art tuition and commissioned art business

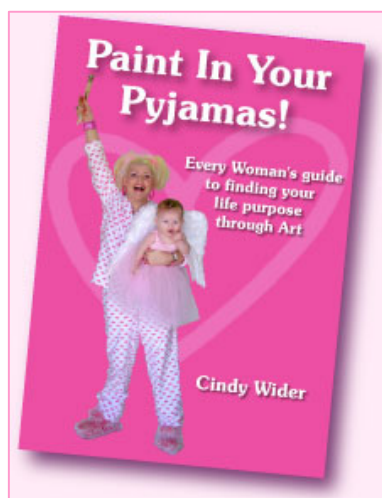
1998: Art Instructor 'Creativity and Illustration' TAFE College Port Lincoln South Australia  
 1998 – 2003 Freelance Illustrator for 'Annaleey Crafts' drawings for rubber stamp designs

## Awards

2007 - Kickstart Business Awards Queensland Winner and National Finalist  
 2001 - Merit prize Elders Stock Journal / Royal Adelaide Show  
 2001 - Second prize Rotary Art Exhibition - Port Lincoln  
 2001 - Regional Arts and Writers Melbourne Diary publication  
 2000 - First prize Elders Stock Journal / Country Arts SA Royal Adelaide Show  
 2000 - Second prize Rotary Art Exhibition - Port Lincoln  
 1999 - Highly Commended Rotary Art Exhibition - Port Lincoln  
 1999 - Country Arts SA Skills Development Scholarship award

## Exhibitions

2008 - Joint Exhibition with Michelle Winter at The Cooper Gallery Noosa  
 2006 - Joint Exhibition with Stuart Wider – Sheraton Noosa Resort  
 2005 - Joint exhibition with Stuart Wider "Life in Paradise" - Sheraton Noosa Resort  
 2005 - Consul General PNG 30th Independence Anniversary – Christie Corporate Brisbane  
 2004 - Solo exhibition "Sunshine Coast Homes and Holidays" - Twin Waters Art Gallery  
 2002 - Solo exhibition "Papua New Guinea Through The Eyes Of A Child" - Port Lincoln  
 2001 - Summer Print Exhibition - Greenhill Galleries Adelaide  
 2000 - Joint exhibition "Mindcapes" - Port Lincoln sponsored by Country Arts SA  
 1998 - Solo touring exhibition "Freedom" - Eyre Peninsula sponsored by Country Arts SA



## Studies

Graduate Diploma Fundamentals of Art - Art Instruction Schools Inc USA

## Books

2006 - 'Paint In Your Pyjamas – every Woman's guide to finding your life purpose through art'  
 ISBN 0 646 45498 6