



Written by Tamela Maxim

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I was very sorry that my camera wasn't working on May 9th when I met Candace Whittemore Lovely at her home for this interview. She was as beautiful "lovely" as I've ever seen her in a pair of slim cut flowery pants and a bright green off-the-shoulder top with a large ruffled neckline; the perfect accent for her long red hair. Candace lives on Hilton Head, but while she is a part of the Bluffton art scene, let's roll out the red carpet for this extraordinary talent and beautiful person (inside and out). Please visit the Calhoun Street Gallery so that you can see that I am not exaggerating. Candace is charmed by Bluffton and is in the process of creating works of art depicting the beauty of Bluffton people, places and things. She has a long list of patrons, including the "rich and famous" from her home in the northeast, but there are still some in the Lowcountry who haven't discovered this precious jewel who has made her home with us for awhile.



Candace is an American Impressionist from the Boston School and was awarded the prestigious title of Copley Master in 1988. Her list of awards and achievements is several pages long and impressive. For example, she painted the official White House portrait of Mrs. Barbara Bush and also the official portrait of Fenway Park for the 1999 All-Star Game. She was born in 1953 in Springfield, Vermont and comes from a long line of artists and scholars. Her father was an engineer who often brought home foreign exchange students. She told me that compared to my Army brat life where we often lived among foreigners - her father brought them home to live with his family. One year, men from Japan came to learn about American machine tool & dye techniques, which they brought back to apply to the automobile industry. As Candace pointed out - we all know what happened after that - history in the making right in her home in Vermont! Candace designed a Maple Syrup label for a jug after graduating from college with horses pulling the sap on a sled in the snow. For those of you who don't know much about the famous Vermont maple syrup, it runs in the spring when the days are warm and the nights are cold. They call it "Mud Season." As Candace explained, "The snow turns to 'corn snow' and everyone pours hot maple syrup on it, which makes it sticky and chewy. You eat it with a sour pickle, making you want more. All year 'round we poured maple syrup on our cereal, milk and ice cream. Only in the spring did we have "sugar on snow." Once her mother saved Hilton Head snow in the freezer just to serve "sugar on snow" for her March birthday visit in the 80's.

She skied in the winter and rode horses in the summer. Candace never does anything halfway and she always aims to be the best. She rode horses at South Woodstock Vermont, (and so did Jacqueline Kennedy) - dressage, cross-country and stadium jumping. In the winter, Candace was a competitive racer - slalom,

giant slalom and downhill. She laughed as she told me about her competition. “I had to compete against Lindsey Cochran!” She explained that Lindsey not only beat the girls, but she could beat all the boys too. In contrast to Candace, who is very feminine; Lindsey was more stocky. She described Lindsey’s mother walking up the mountain with her daughter’s extra set of skis; Candace couldn’t resist painting this little picture of her former rival and mother as two sturdy women tromping up the mountain as though it was nothing, which of course, it wasn’t. Candace didn’t brag much about herself, but I know she wasn’t content to do anything but work harder to beat Lindsey and Candace won her share of races. She is at her best in the toughest competition. Please take a look at the painting called “The Little Black Dress,” which she painted in only one day along with other artists who also created “fresh works of art in one day” on Sunday May 6, 2007 in Boston. to benefit the Copley Society.



As I walked through her home, she told me stories about her artwork and the technical protocol of creating some of them. Candace enjoys helping other people see - to really see. She showed me some of her student’s work. I saw the progression and success achieved by one student in 3 attempts to learn what she called the Sight- Size method. She explained that an artist learns to draw/paint in a way that is not unlike a computer, which records information in the simplicity and preciseness of 1’s and 0’s. I learned how to see where the edge of an object goes from being “solid” to becoming “lost” - how the edge sometimes is very obvious and other times the edge blends in with the object next to it - called a lost edge. Candace and I stopped in front of one of her paintings and she told me to get close and then to step away. “The closer you get the less you see,” she explained. She



told me about how tiny and subtle techniques can be used to create a powerful effect - like choosing to make a very thin outline of red around the green in a painting, which because of the color relationship of red to green, makes the green look more interesting, but the “eye” doesn’t notice the “trick.” I thought to myself that these are the little details that often distinguish a good artist from a great one. She smiled mischievously and I laughed as she told me about how she used to not paint the clouds because she saw them as troublesome to work with, describing them as akin to cotton balls and as my grandson would say, “they weren’t her favorite” Yet,

when she finally decided to include clouds they became one of the best parts of her work. She is a master at portraying the mystery and magic of light and her portrait of children holding sparklers is one of my favorites for the way the sparklers light up the childrens’ faces and give the painting an otherworldly, “better than the real thing,” quality.

You can learn more about her and see her paintings at CandaceLovely.com and her phone number is 843-681-6632. You may be surprised to know that she answers her own phone. Prints of her work range from only \$60 - \$1250 and original paintings from \$2100 - \$125,000.