

Weems Galleries and Framing

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Michelle Cook

Leroy & Willy Dinnerware

Leroy had a vision; every cat, every dog & even their human servants would dine off fine dinnerware celebrating divine Catness & Dogness. Leroy has passed on, but Willy carries forth the dream.

Michelle Cook is the human servant/artist behind Leroy & Willy & this, more or less, is her story:

Michelle has lived in Albuquerque, NM for most of her life, having originally hailed from New Jersey, though you couldn't prove it by her. She attended the

University of New Mexico & in 1982 received her Bachelors degree in Fine Arts. In her tender, youthful years she waxed poetically in the art of batik & sold her work in arts & crafts fairs & local boutiques. But colleges exposed her the thrill of printmaking & she began producing limited edition serigraphy. Her prints were exhibited in national juried competitions & shown in several galleries, including Weyrich & Fisher Galleries in Albuquerque. She also had a booth at the New Mexico Arts & Crafts Fair for nearly ten consecutive years. After becoming seriously frazzled by trying to register forty to fifty separate colors in each of her serigraphy, Michelle "relaxed" into painting. While languishing in the throes of artistic trauma & self-discovery, she began working as a production painter for Margie Weinstein, an Albuquerque potter for over twenty years.



Michelle & Margie began Leroy & Willy Dinnerware in 1998, inspired by their mentors Leroy Cook, the Cat & Willy Weinstein, the Dog. In 2000, Margie went on to teaching full time & Michelle, a strictly two-dimensional kind of gal, now works with several other talented potters & mold-makers. She does all the designing & painting. Her inspiration is cats & dogs & their remarkable capacity for being themselves.



Michelle Cook - Leroy & Willy Dinnerware