



# Long Beach Artist George Kyle Is Following His Bliss

By Jill L. Ferguson

Joseph Campbell said that if you follow your bliss, you'll be on the track that has been waiting for you. For George Kyle, that bliss was education and art, both woven into his life from childhood to now. During childhood he was influenced by the interests of his older siblings and parents. His sister and mother played piano and his brothers could draw. His father arranged private lessons for him in German. During elementary school, Kyle began lessons in piano and later learned to play the French horn in high school, where his interest in languages grew with Latin and Spanish classes.

As a youngster he designed puppets, scenery, and elaborate stage sets to the wonder of his parents, siblings, and friends. He attributes his love of color to an aunt, a Carmel-based weaver and loom artist who would send his mom small squares of what she was weaving. "The colors were vivid and exquisite," Kyle said. "They were visually impressive."

Most of his early art learning was self-taught as no visual art classes were taught in school. "There was music and shop for boys and home economics for girls," he said. As he matured, Kyle studied figure drawing and painting. At one point in high school, he created a painting of the burning of Atlanta ("mostly flames and smoke!") for history class that was published in the school newspaper.

Kyle loved education and decided on teaching as a vocation. He studied French and German at the bachelor's and master's levels, and planned to become an artist educator. German came in handy when he relocated to Berlin with his parents in his early 20s. He spent hours in German and French art museums copying and learning from the masters.

When Kyle returned to the States in the pursuit of more formal education in art, he took classes at the University of Washington during the evenings while teaching French and German in area schools during the day. Eventually he moved to Fullerton and started a master of arts program at CSU Fullerton, where he became a graduate teaching assistant in printmaking.

After graduating with a second master's degree in 1979, Irvine Valley College opened a new campus and hired Kyle to set up the art department. For the next 25 years, he taught hundreds of students and created hundreds of paintings. Throughout the 1980s, he had a show of watercolor paintings in Sherman Oaks, exhibited twice at the Grand Prix of International Painting in Monaco, had a piece in a show in Japan, and exhibited paintings in Fullerton and Scottsdale, in addition to being included in a number of group shows. "Some of my favorite subjects to paint are still lifes and beach scenes," Kyle said. He's painted such scenes from the French Riviera, where he spent every summer for five decades, and Venice Beach in California. Kyle says that he is inspired by the rich tradition of both past and present representational painting.

It's been more than a decade since he retired from being a college professor, but he continued to teach privately. COVID has curtailed that for the past year, but he looks forward to getting back to it once it's possible. He lives in Bluff Heights, where he maintains a studio. His artwork can be seen at [www.georgekylefineart.com](http://www.georgekylefineart.com). At some point in the future there will be selected giclée prints of his art available for purchase.

"Bliss isn't at the end of the journey," Kyle said. "It's there all along. My bliss was acquiring an education and becoming an educator." And with each painting and drawing he creates, he says he's still learning—blissfully!



(Top) George Kyle, in his studio.

(Above) Painting of a beach scene from Antibes, France.

(Left) Still life painting with a Chinese vase.

Jill Ferguson is an artist, best-selling author, coach, consultant, entrepreneur, and founder of Women's Wellness Weekends. She lives in Bluff Heights with her husband, Rick Heckt, and their dog Coconut.