

My Woman Made Gallery Story

My association with Woman Made Gallery goes way back to when it was still in a storefront in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood.

I had always tried to fit my art into my daily life, but with my husband and I becoming empty-nesters I began learning how to take good slides of my work (slides were the means of submission in those days and poor ones did no favors for even the best of artwork) and submitting to calls for art.

Woman Made Gallery was the second show to which

I was accepted. I still remember the night my husband and I went to the opening. As we got close to the Gallery, I saw a glow in the middle of the storefront window and there was my Electric Chair Barbie. I was so excited not only to be in the show, but to have the work featured in the window (I think in part because there was a lightbulb as part of the display).

Being in that show validated my efforts as a self-taught artist and gave me the confidence to submit to and be accepted by many other shows and venues around the country.

Meanwhile I became more involved with the Gallery, serving in myriad capacities including Chair of the Board, jurying an exhibition and having a solo show in 2007.

I live in Albuquerque now and so cannot be present as we move into yet another space (I have been involved through four) and can only marvel at the persistence and resilience the Gallery has shown through the involvement of so many individuals who have believed in its mission.

Roberta Allen 9/28/23

