

## **Penny Doolittle, Paintings from the Studio and My Life**



The Friends of the Yellow Barn Studio are pleased to present the work of Penelope Doolittle.

Penny grew up in Hunt Valley MD, in Baltimore County. Her mother loved art, painted and when the children were grown, traveled to Italy to study.

Penny graduated from Radcliffe College, majoring in History. After graduation, she was hired by the Central Intelligence Agency as an analyst in Russian Intelligence. She was recognized for her excellent and enthusiastic work with the Soviet Union, which included her writings on President Gorbachev. “He was better than most!”, she wrote. Penny’s career with the CIA continued for 40 years until she retired at the age of 62.

She had a long and happy marriage to Richard Doolittle. They spent many happy summers together at their home in Castine Maine with friends and relatives. Many of her paintings depict this idyllic spot surrounded by her nieces and nephews.

Her enthusiasm transferred to the beginnings of the Yellow Barn Studio in the mid 1980’s, before there was a barn, when Penny studied with Walt Bartman at Glen Echo Park. She continued her studies in Bartman’s Figure and Landscape class where she began her composition with an ultramarine drawing which continued through her work with various life models. Outside of class she painted and critiqued with a group known as the Vision Nine.

Later she studied with Gonzalo Ruiz Navarro, working primarily from family photos and scenes depicting favorite people and places in her life.

Her work has always been admired by her classmates and she has always retained her self contained humility and dry sense of humor. To this day she has continued to be a strong supporter of the Friends.

In December 2024, during the Annual Juried Members Show, she received one of the top awards from gallery owner, Adah Rose Bitterbaum, “In Memory of my best friend Alen”. Alen and Penny were childhood friends and together with their husbands they summered together and traveled the world. Penny turned 95 years young last year and we are honored to display her lovely work at the Yellow Barn Studio.