



*Rowley Family
Birthing Center*

Commissioned Artwork

“ROOTS & WINGS”

by

Linda Richichi

“ROOTS & WINGS”

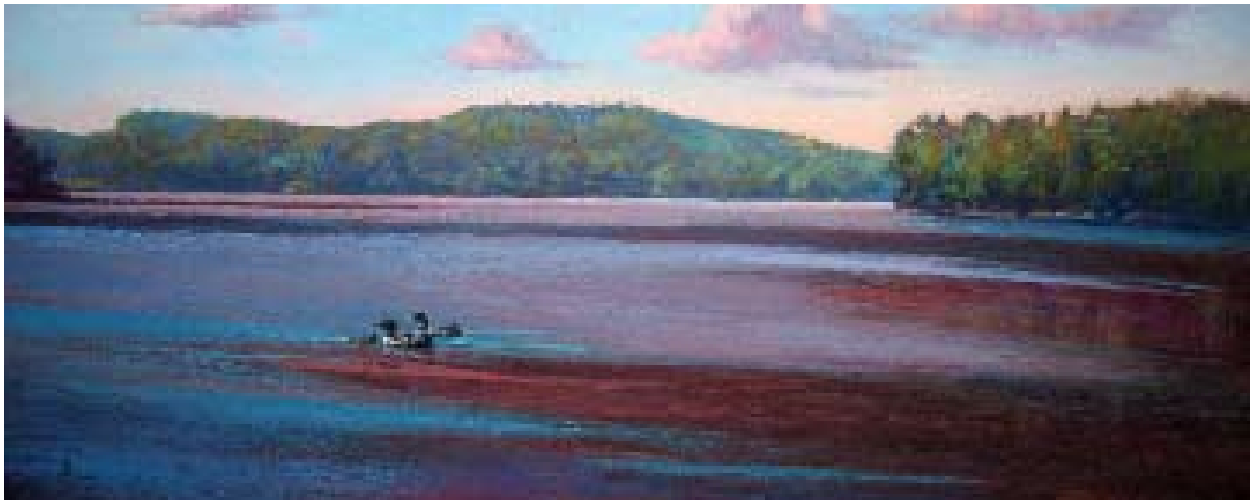
Creating the artwork for the Rowley Birthing Center could best be described as an artistic birthing process in its own right. Initially, the idea for the artwork was conceived from Bob and Joan Rowley’s commitment to family, a fond affection for all living things in nature, especially birds, flowers and trees and a deep love of their family home on Wanaksink Lake in Sullivan County. This was their favorite place to enjoy being close to Mother Nature’s most beautiful works of art.

A great deal of time and thought was given to how best honor the legacy of Bob and Joan Rowley. The family’s collective mission, while working with artist Linda Richichi, was to use these beloved themes in nature to universally represent birth and the celebration of life.

Linda was given the artistic challenge of creating an original body of work which gives a sense of “belonging” in the birthing center without just blending in. From the very beginning, Linda put her heart and soul into creating works of art whose color and composition would instill a sense of vibrancy and vitality to the birthing center, while at the same time reflecting warmth, renewal and peace.

As the artist and family worked together and watched each piece evolve, there has been no doubt; the family’s original vision was came into fruition. While they had always wanted each piece to be appreciated for its individual beauty and interest, the Rowley’s also hoped there would be a subtle but profound connection tying the series of work together. In the world of art, this is called a “collection” or “body of work” where one piece relates to the other with meaningful intention. We proudly name this special collection of work: “Roots & Wings”.

“There are two lasting bequests we can give our children; one is Roots, the other is Wings” - Hodding Carter



The artistic re-birth of the Rowley Birthing Center, begins of course, in the newly renovated and refurbished entrance with a pastel view of the West Shore of Wanaksink Lake entitled:

Roots & Wings Collection: “Loons Upon The Lake”

The Loons in the foreground were chosen because they were one of Joan’s favorite birds to watch migrate around the lake. To catch a glimpse of them gliding gently across the lake is indeed a special sighting. Looking closely, you will see five loons: two grown and three ducklings, representing Family. The loons in this beautiful work of art are meant to reflect the very special family of Bob, Joan, Kathi, Rich and Robin Rowley, along with the many other special families coming to the Rowley Family Birthing Center.

Near the Center's entrance, and directly across from the Nurse's station, is a collection of 12 Mandalas entitled:

Roots & Wings Collection:
"Transformations"

We are each a full circle; within us the power
to create, to nurture, to transform

A Mandala is a circular design seen as embodying various divine powers at work in the universe. The circular pattern chosen to border all 12 pieces also represents; stability, oneness, the essence and foundation of life and most profoundly, the source of all beginnings. Each Mandala holds a special image, pattern or design within its border integrating birds, nests, eggs and the Hudson Valley.



Coming Home



A Beginning



A New Life



The Living Seed



Blueprint of Nature



Kindred Spirits



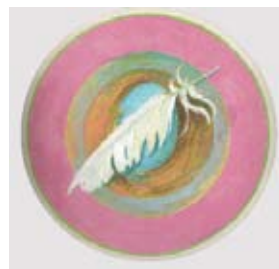
Full Circle



Nesting Instinct



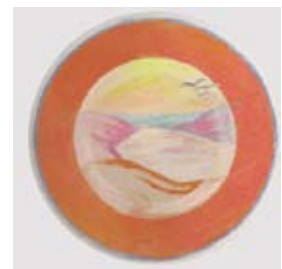
Circle of Love



Born Free



Blossoming



New Journey

Roots & Wings Collection:
“The Giving Tree”

Beyond the Nurse’s Station is one of the artist’s most vibrant focal points of the collection. It is a mixed media painting of a wonderfully alive and joyful tree. In nearly every culture, the tree is symbolic of life and perfect harmony. As a young seedling, the tree receives nourishment from Mother Earth from which it’s roots and branches grow and expand in all directions. The tree can then provide shelter and nourishment for other living things. This joyful giving tree symbolizes the importance nature plays in the cycle of life for us all.

The remaining pieces to be installed in the hallways and each room are entitled:

Roots & Wings Collection:
“Bloom & Grow”

This is a beautiful symphony of Sunflowers – each with a different soulful perspective. In one, the petals look as though they are wings, in another, a tiny bud is encouraged to bloom and grow as tall and strong as the mighty flowers that surround it.



The “Roots & Wings” Collection has brought the existing Birthing Center to an artistic full circle moment for the Rowley family. Working with Linda Richichi has given the Rowley’s the unique opportunity to create a beautiful visual legacy which honors the lives and loves of Bob and Joan Rowley, while hopefully enhancing and enriching the human experience for all who come through the Rowley Birthing Center at Orange Regional Medical Center.

Through the world of art, we have tried to capture the universally held belief in the “miracle of life.” The “Roots & Wings” Collection reflects a deep and enduring respect for all - natural wonders - in this place on Earth - we call home.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Linda Richichi

“Her evocative plein air paintings express an intense response to observed nature, while her dynamic abstractions reflect a passionate energy and masterful sense of form,”
Dennis Wepman, Art Curator of Karpeles Museum.

Award winning artist Linda Richichi was born in Montgomery. She earned her first art award at the age of six and commission at sixteen. Her educational background includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Art from SUNY New Paltz and years of study with many modern masters including Arthur Sarnoff at the Boca Raton Museum of Art in Florida, Susan Goetz in New York and John Phillip Osborne at the Ridgewood Art Institute in New Jersey. In 1999, Richichi received a scholarship from the Pastel Society of America to attend the Art Students League in New York City. Her studies will continue in the summer of 2008 under Albert Handell’s mentoring program in Taos, New Mexico. She was included in the International Artist Magazine under Master Painters of the World, Pastel Showcase in the January 2005 issue. In the June 2006 issue, Linda’s exhibit at the RiverWinds Gallery was critiqued favorably and reviewed by art critic Raymond J. Steiner for *ART TIMES*. In September of 2006, Richichi was awarded the Best of Show Ontario Purchase Award, at the International Plein Air Painters (I.P.A.P.), Fourth Worldwide Paint Out at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The award winning painting now hangs in the Ontario City Hall.

Richichi has exhibited extensively including the prestigious National Arts Club in New York City with the Pastel Society of America, a solo exhibit at the Karpeles Library Manuscript Museum in Newburgh and a three person exhibit in the Museum of the Hudson Highlands in Cornwall. Linda attends several national invitational plein air events each year. Her work is in private and corporate collections internationally. She was recently commissioned by Mercedes Benz Corporation. The Rowley Family Birthing Center at Orange Regional Medical Center commissioned Richichi for an entire collection. Since 1996, the Harness Racing Museum in Goshen has commissioned Richichi to annually paint a portrait. Her work is traveling with the World Tour Exhibition titled “Far and Near Horizons” which includes work of 30 Contemporary Landscape Artists selected from the International Plein Air Painters and the Landscape Artists International organizations. This exhibit will travel to Wisconsin, Colorado, British Columbia, Canada and Florida in 2008 before it heads overseas in 2009 through 2010. Richichi is the 2008 artist-in-residence at SUNY Orange’s Newburgh Extension.

Richichi occasionally conducts workshops in Tuscany, Italy and Paris, France. Saatchi Gallery in London, England invited Richichi to exhibit her work on its website. She is represented by Fieldstone Fine Art in Ramsey, New Jersey and exhibits in galleries in the Hudson Valley region regularly.