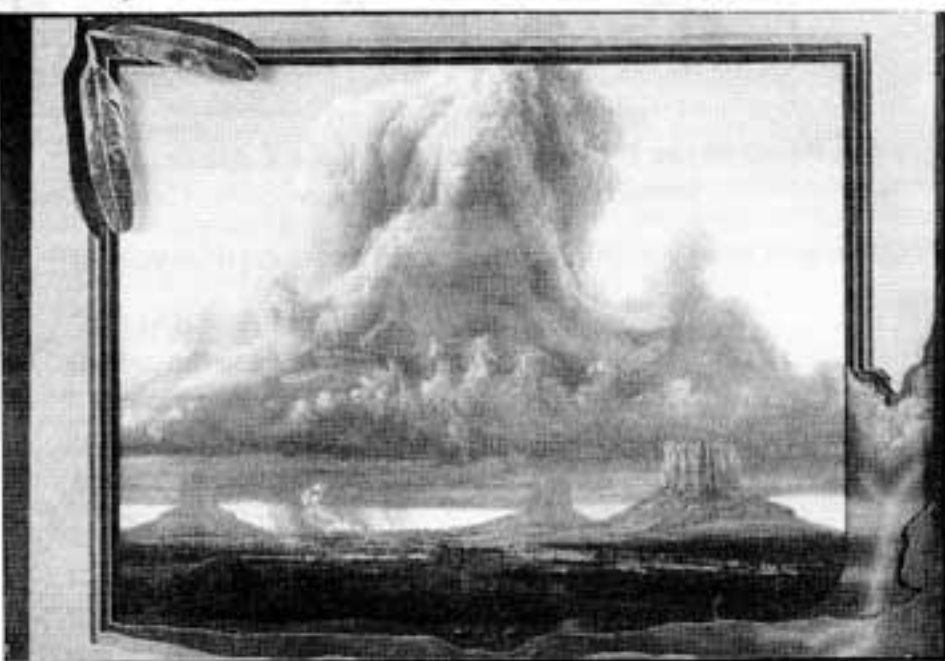


Bearcloud — Letting Spirit Flow

"My Work Comes From Spirit— I Am Honored It Comes Through Me"



Eagle's Path Blessing of the Spirit

"As I walked the path of the Eagle Spirit, I saw visions of the Universe unfolded before me.... I saw before me the thundering power of the spirit. I saw the eagle feathers rain down upon the Earth in the power of what is. I felt the blessing of the Great Spirit for the Earth and the people and it was complete.

I heard the Thunder Beings playing the drum and the voice of the spirit penetrating my soul. I felt the oneness as the spirits' breath moved through my hair.

I touch the Earth and I touch the sky, and I feel the connection with the Universe as I walk the path of the Eagle Spirit."

The visionary art of **Rod Bearcloud Berry** is unfathomably deep. Like the man himself, the images on his canvasses reveal themselves to you according to your willingness to open up and allow them to emerge.

"My art arrives from the visions that come to me through the sacred pipe and other ceremonies, in the way of my people. I try to do things in the spirit way. I get a great deal of strength, knowledge and balance from the ceremonies. I like to take that and put it in my artwork where others can feel and see it.

"The more you get balanced and in tune with nature and with the artwork," he explains, "the spirit helpers begin to show themselves one at a time.

"Bears that Move of the Wind," his newest painting (see cover), typifies the spiritual quality he brings to his work. Unerringly he calls forth the hidden nature buried deep within the human and animal forms, the trees, the rocks, the clouds. Like the native man shown on horseback, the viewer is bathed in a subtle mist and feels the blessing of Spirit's unfoldment.

He writes:

*As I move across the mist of
the Universe
the Bears of the Shadowland
Would make the tracks of my fears
So as the lights of Harmony would
Guide my path
There would be Oneness with
the Bears that Move on the Wind.*

A feeling of gentleness envelops you as you enter **Bearcloud Gallery**, tucked away upstairs in a back corner of Tlaquepaque. This is a working gallery; if you time it right, you may catch the artist at work.



Stand at the Center

"The visionary part of the work may come to me in my sacred space at my home, or out in nature, but I do a lot of the actual painting in here," he confides. "Sometimes the vision comes all at once, and sometimes it comes to me in pieces. With 'Bears that Move of the Wind,' I saw a piece of the vision four years ago when I was in the Sierras. It didn't fit into what I was working on at the time, so I stored it away in my mind. Then recently I received the visions that showed me how the painting would be. I just completed that particular piece in March of this year.

"I usually see the work in its entirety before I pick up a brush," he continues. "But it doesn't always happen that way. Probably the most demanding painting I've done is 'Spirits of the Waters Flow Freely,' because all I could see in the beginning was the darkness. It started out with a nearly totally black canvas, and then, little by little, the Spirits began emerging out of the darkness. I realized that it was a perfect mirror for life—we often stand in the darkness and are called upon to open to trusting that the light will emerge to show us our path."

Bearcloud's creativity seems to know no bounds. The mattings for his framed paintings are as much a part of the paintings

as are the canvases themselves; with deft eye and hand he cuts and paints to create an exquisite matrix in which to embed the paintings. (You can get an idea of what we mean by looking at "Eagle's Path Blessing of the Spirit" (left), but to fully appreciate this unique feature of Bearcloud's art you'll need to visit Bearcloud Gallery). In his Canvas Edition, a new process that allows the paintings to be printed on canvas rather than on paper adds immeasurably to the depth and texture of his work.

The gallery itself is a result of the creative spirit so apparent in everything he sets his hand to.

"When I first visited Tlaquepaque, I knew I wanted a gallery here," he recalls.

"When I started out, I met a man who invited me to show my paintings. It was pretty successful, so then I started showing them with pottery a friend of mine made. The combination worked really well, and pretty soon I was showing jewelry made by another friend... it turned into sort of a trading post. Then when I came to Sedona the gallery just came together perfectly.

Bearcloud Gallery was recently honored with an "Impeccability Award" by The Objective Perspective, a nationwide service specializing in critiquing small businesses from the customer's viewpoint. The award exemplifies Bearcloud's commitment to excellence in every detail of his operation.

Whether you are a Sedona local or a



Spirits of the Waters Flow Freely

"The only space available was a little room off one of the galleries. The artist was glad to have me take it off his hands—I bought it and closed in the patio, built the interior walls, painted it...."

While the walls of the gallery are tastefully hung with his breathtakingly beautiful paintings, three pedestals bear translucent acrylic sculptures he created using his own process of sculpting two images and combining them through a casting process. The pedestals themselves are works of art, and the sculptures resting on them are truly indescribable.

"I'd been wanting to work in three dimensions for a long time," he relates. "Bronze and clay were too opaque, and when the acrylic medium crossed my path I saw that it would allow me to create the same kind of effect as with my paintings. It had that same quality of light. I put myself into it completely, and the spirit of life emerged—the spirit of one thing living within the spirit of another." He glances at the red rocks visible through the window. "That's a mountain out there, but there are spirits in the mountain—so that's what I try to reflect in my sculptures. It's a special gift that comes to me from Spirit, and I like to give Spirit credit for my work. It comes through me."

One of the things that sets Bearcloud apart from so many other brilliant artists is his ability to function as both artist and businessman.

visitor to Red Rock Country, you will want to take the time this month to visit Bearcloud Gallery, a haven for the senses, for the heart, for the soul. Located at the southeast end of Tlaquepaque bordering the creek, it's not difficult to find—upon entering the main courtyard, go all the way back to the buildings at the rear.

Bearcloud's message is for all of us: "There are a lot of ways we can find balance and peace... I in the Indian way, the Taoist Priest in his way, and you in yours. All tap into the Universal Consciousness. If you listen very closely, you can find messages in the wind."

Bearcloud Gallery (520) 282-4940



Artist Rod Bearcloud Berry