

SUSAN BURTON

I have been working for eighteen years primarily as a painter until I discovered the wonderful world of gourds! I caught the last five minutes of a television segment on an artist carving gourds and stopped, transfixed, because oddly enough I had just finished a still life painting with two large gourds as part of the composition. After some reading, research and MUCH experimentation, I was hooked.

The use of hard shell gourds has a very rich history in early primitive cultures and the challenge is creating fresh designs while honoring the past.

I use a palette of mostly natural earth tones, using leather dyes and wood stain. This approach lets the natural beauty of the gourd surface to still be apparent. The carving (some are deep bas relief) or incising is accomplished with dental and machinists burs.