



Ron Mitchell's CHEROKEE ARTIST NEWSLETTER

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DEAN LAUDERDALE, ARTIST & FRIEND

Dean Lauderdale, a good friend of mine passed away on January 7 of this year, 41 years after meeting Dean under unusual circumstances. I was hired to replace Dean as Graphics Supervisor with the Oklahoma City Planning Department. He was no longer the supervisor, but one of the graphic designers in my department. To the surprise of a lot of people, Dean went out of his way to make the transition go very smoothly. We were friends from the very start.

Our office overlooked the park in front of City Hall, where that spring, tents were being set up. I called Dean over to the window and asked him what was going on?

It was "Spring Art Festival" time and that week Dean and I spent every lunch hour taking in the entire event, meeting and talking to many artist about the world of art.

That Friday, as the work week came to an end, I told Dean I was going to start doing art shows.....Dean replied "If you are going to do it, so am I".



Ron Mitchell and Dean Lauderdale, 2009

We had to flip a coin to see who slept on the floor and paid for the T.V. (in those early days of doing shows, Motel 6 charged extra for the T.V.). I believe Dean lost, and had to borrow the quarter to pay for the T.V.

It seems like Dean was always rushing around in high gear. It didn't matter if he was working with a new technique to create his distinctive art styles, helping this colored blind artist with his colors, our driving long hours to new and distant art markets.

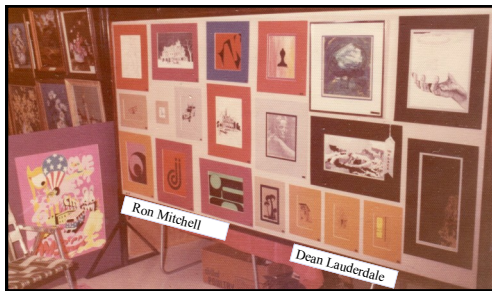
All of the artists that shared time and shows with Dean have stories about him. My favorite story was the time Dean and I were sharing a room in Dallas, and he wanted to go to dinner at Denney's. Driving a large Ford station wagon, Dean pulled out of the motel turning right onto a city street. When I told him Denney's was behind us, he made a high speed U turn, running a stop sign and squealing his tires in front of one of Dallas's Police cars.

As soon as the Policeman's light went on, Dean pulled over. The Policeman walked up to Dean's open window, but before the officer or Dean could say anything, I leaned over from the passenger side and said, "Can you believe anybody could be in that much of a hurry to go to Denney's?"

The officer smiled, laughed and let us off with a verbal warning. "Don't ever speed in my district again, now go and enjoy your dinner". To the best of my knowledge, that was the one area he did not ever speed in again.

Dean was always speeding off to somewhere. Now he has rushed off again, this time to a studio with an unlimited pallet of colors, and canvas's larger than the sky. He will now be using his wonderful use of color and design in the Creators art department.

See more of Dean's work: www.SallyandDean.com



Dell City, Oklahoma - 1971

Latter that spring, we did our first art show at Dell City, Oklahoma. We displayed all of our art on a shared 4'x8' peg board panel.

Working full time, we started doing as many art shows as we could.....meeting other artists, sharing show information, techniques and experiences.

We continued going to shows together after we quit our jobs and went full time. Like any small business, sometimes it was great and other times it was tough. It seems like we were always short of cash, like the time Dean, another artist and myself had just enough money between us to share a Motel 6 room.

PEN & INKS MAKE A COMEBACK



It has been over 30 years since I did any pen and ink drawings. To my surprise it was as if I had never stopped drawing. My new work has been well received, with over half selling the first time I showed them. You can see all of the new work on my web site: www.cherokeeartist.net

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