



Christy Edwards Potter '70



Christy Edwards Potter is a native Long Islander who summured on Fire Island until she was thirteen, when her family moved, year-round, to Fire Island Summer Club, a satellite community of Ocean Beach. Like all year-round Fire Islanders, Christy commuted to Bay Shore High School on a bus over the new Robert Moses Bridge that had opened in 1964. A professional watercolor artist for most of her adult life, Christy retains ongoing gratitude to Mr. Al Cestra, her high school art teacher, and his wife Lillian for the part they played in shaping her career. In the 1980's, the Fire Island School accepted her donation of a painting that reflects the adventure of a school bus coming over a dune on Fire Island and her painting of Bay Shore High School appeared on Teacher's Federal Credit Union brochures.

Long Islanders think frequently of Christy as *Fire Island's Artist*, but such an image restricts her actual scope. She has painted many towns on Long Island, in New York and other states, and beyond, and her realistic genre paintings express universal emotions and thus pull the viewer into scenes that touch the heart. After she graduated from high school, Christy received her degree from the University of Tennessee and spent two years as a high school art teacher all the while knowing that she had a burning desire to paint professionally. Thus, when she was twenty-five, she left teaching and, with two things in her favor, declared herself an artist. Primary is Christy's prolific painting ability – she has created and sold more than 3500 originals in twenty-eight years. In addition, she considers herself blessed because what she likes to paint people like to purchase.

Christy's paintings continue to draw admiration from her patrons, many of who have sizeable personal collections and in 1986 she was recognized nationally as an "Outstanding Woman of the Year" for her many professional and charitable contributions. Acknowledging that her considerable talent is a gift from God, Christy continues quietly to donate her time and original art to local causes and various Long Island and Fire Island groups.

A contributing artist for the Arthur Kaplan Company, wholesale distributors of prints and posters, more than a million of her select twelve images decorate hotels and condominiums worldwide and she also illustrated the first edition of Vivian Farrell's *Robert's Tall Friend: A Story of the Fire Island Lighthouse*. She entered the world of fine art prints in 1983 and the first eight were presented as a coffee table book, *The Christy Collection*. She now offers reproductions that she generates herself with archival inks on her own signature paper and hosts semi-annual one-woman art shows at her home in East Islip. A pioneer in artist websites in 1995, she can be reached and seen at www.christyedwards.com.