Roberta Wesley

Roberta Wesley was born in Happy, Texas to rural schoolteachers in a family with a rich pioneer heritage. Her grandparents arrived in Texas by covered wagon. Her father was one of eleven children and born in a dugout in West Texas. She grew up hearing stories of the trail, of untamed lands, and the pioneer life. The young artist was filled with visions of Charles Goodnight’s legendary cattle drives and a unique breed of Texas long-horned cattle. Her longhorns are strong and battle ready, reflecting her sense of the breed and its place as a symbol of the land and people who settled it.

Roberta Wesley finished her first oil painting at the age of 12. Her passion for art continued and she graduated at Texas Women’s University after studying at several Texas universities. While still a student at the University of Texas at Austin, the artist had a boost from two well-known Texans. Lady Bird Johnson purchased paintings for the Johnson ranch, followed by several purchases by former Texas Governor Alan Shivers and his wife. After graduating, she worked as a commercial artist before again returning to art full time.

Wesley’s traditional medium of choice is alkyd which allow the artist to work quickly in great detail while rendering luminous colors through glaze techniques. In the early 90's Roberta began experimenting with the use of a computer in her work and discovered the creative potential of combining this new technology with her mastery of traditional artistic techniques. Roberta's alkyds on canvas now merge in her computer to produce the mixed media of her most recent works.