

Virtual Tour of Jaci's Gallery

Benton House Arts Faire

Walking down the hallway left of the entrance to Benton House one gallery begins. Jaci's work starts with the silhouette sunset

she painted while living at Cottages of Roswell.



This tour takes you down the hallway to the T at the end where Jaci's portrait of Ansel Adams sits on display in Silent Auction.

Featured below is a closeup of Jaci's "Old Mill" which is in the first section, two pictures down from the sunset.



Left of "The Old Mill" Jaci's brochures were stacked. By the end of the day, most were gone!

Left to Right: *Misty Mountains*, *Sunbank*, *On the Beach*, *First Portrait*.

The brochure tells you that Jaci started painting when she turned 70 years old. Her body of work has grown through the years since then. She decided to make a stab at portraiture after awhile, and painted her first portrait (bottom right) on canvas paper from a picture in a magazine. This lady has been like a friend to Jaci over the years, greeting her every morning with a smile.



These pictures line the end of the hallway, far right, some of you will recognize her first mountain home “Talking Waters.” Later she built a larger one next door to the right. Next to Talking Waters is C.A.R.E Baby. Next to that is Susan Muse’s old pump house. The *London Sea Captain* follows that.

She met him on a bus in London. At the end is Jaci’s bio (see next page).



Pardon the glare! You can fill in the blanks.

Jaci wrote this bio for her gallery show
At Chambrel Independent Living, when
she moved there from her home in
Roswell. At that time she was about
85 if I recall correctly.

Further down in this tour you will see
Her tribute to Clair Fry, her mentor.

She displayed a much larger tribute to
Clair Fry at Chambrel as he was a
resident at Chambrel for several years.

ABOUT JACI CAMP

Jaci was primarily a self-taught artist, started painting when she was 70. As she grew older, she loved to draw. As a teenager, she realized she could catch a likeness, & became particularly interested in faces.

In high school, she received 2 honors for her art. At the end of Junior High, she won a competition on Graduation Program designs. The next year, at Gordon Military Academy, she was asked to illustrate the yearbook. Delighted, she had a great time & learned a lot.

Three years later, fresh out of Atlanta's Girls High, she moved to Tennessee, & working as a portrait photographer's apprentice, learned about the dark room, finishing, enlargements, the camera, & lighting. She enjoyed photographing portraits of friends & family.

A native Georgian, Jaci grew up, married, & with her husband, raised 3 children in Southwest Atlanta. In 1960, her husband's health was failing, so, Jaci took a clerical position at Fort McPherson.

Later, she earned an Associate Degree in Mental Health at Georgia State University. Still in school, she transferred to the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention & Control Program (ADAPCP) at Fort Mac, as Secretary, then Counselor, then Civilian Program Coordinator, & finally as ADAPCP's Manager, retiring after 25 years.

Jaci thought about art lessons, but couldn't make a decision... until her mentor, Clair Fry, appeared, 50 years after her last art experience. Clair & his wife Maudie moved 2 doors from Jaci at the Cottages of Roswell.

Jaci had no idea Clair Fry was such a wonderful man & well-known artist, when she asked him to teach her. He encouraged her to paint & let him critique. She encouraged him to teach some classes. He finally agreed. They researched the community adult art centers, together.

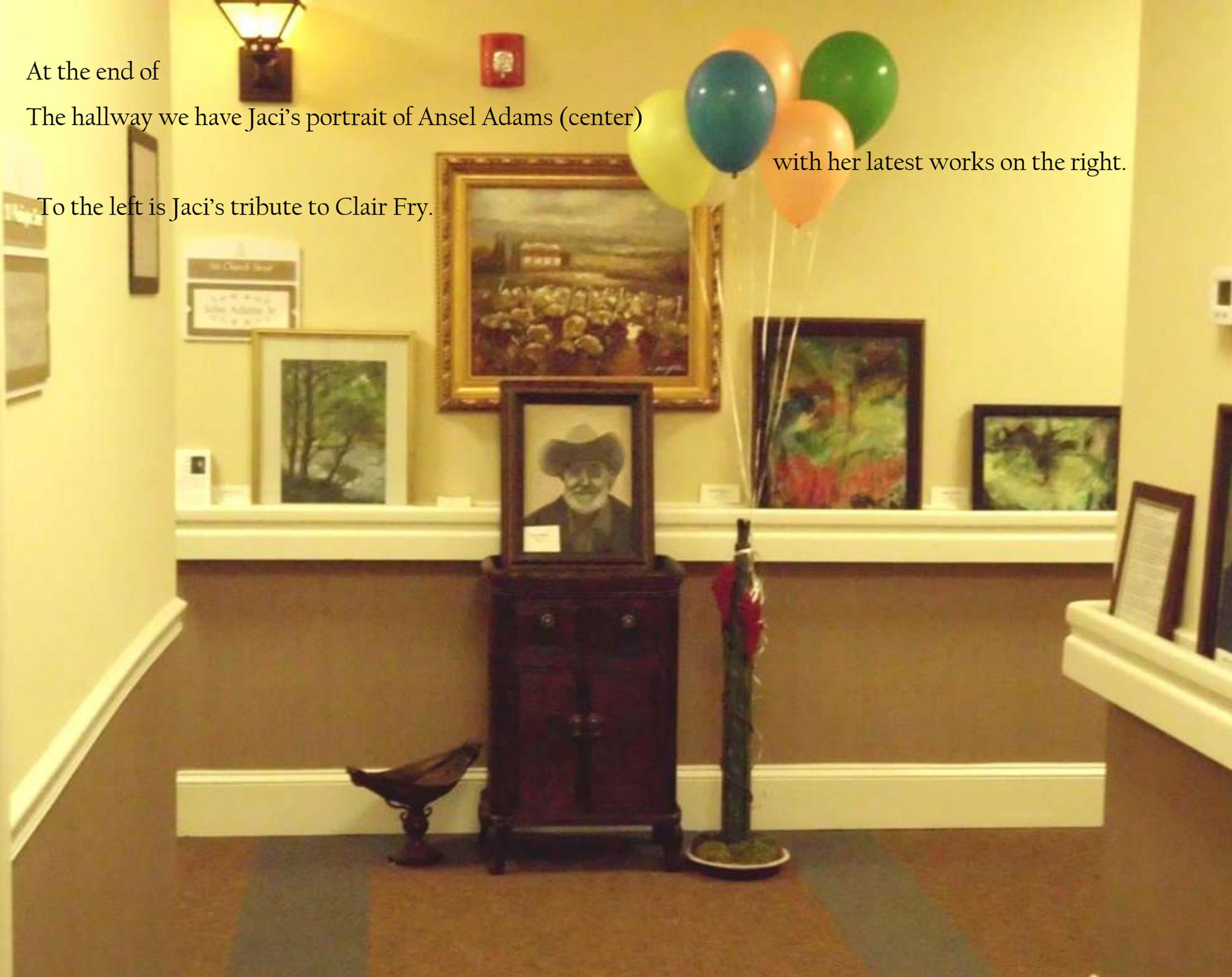
Jaci had five memorable years of study with Clair Fry, a Chambrel resident in his last days. There is more about Clair around the corner, along with three of his paintings.

At the end of

The hallway we have Jaci's portrait of Ansel Adams (center)

with her latest works on the right.

To the left is Jaci's tribute to Clair Fry.



Jaci's Latest works sit to the right of the Ansel Adams display. Walk away from the computer screen - a ways away- and look at the picture on the right. I see an eye! (If you use the zoom tool, you have to take it down to 20 percent or smaller).



Flamingo Flower
2008
Oil on Canvas
18" x 24"



Alpine Snow
2008
Oil on Canvas
12" x 16"

Oh, I could cry! The crowd was converging, so my last shot was quick, and cut off some of Clair's picture of the river. If you want to see the whole thing, you'll just have to visit her!

Right of the river is Jaci's memories of Clair which she wrote for her gallery show at Chambrel. Center is a portrait Clair painted of Jaci, which is mentioned in the memories to the left of the portrait. Right of the portrait is the old Talking Waters, a watercolor Clair painted while he was there. What's totally cut out of this picture on the right, is a photo portrait of Clair, which I believe was done by my sister, Suzanne Bridgeman (see next page).





Clair Fry, My Mentor

by Jaci Camp

This show is dedicated to the memory of Clair Fry, a renowned artist & finally a Chambrel resident. His life & nature can be glimpsed through photographs, newspaper clippings & other items, on display here.

50 years of my life had passed without touching art, when Clair & his wife Maudie moved 2 doors from me at Roswell Cottages. While trying to make myself draw again, Clair suggested I paint. I

told him I wanted to work with pastels. He said, "Well, oil is very forgiving." I'm very glad I believed him.

While I knew him, Clair taught art around Atlanta, including Abernathy Art Center where he had 3 gallery shows. An impressionist who emphasized the center of interest, he would often say, "If you can't see it, you don't have one! It's the place where the darkest dark meets the lightest light."

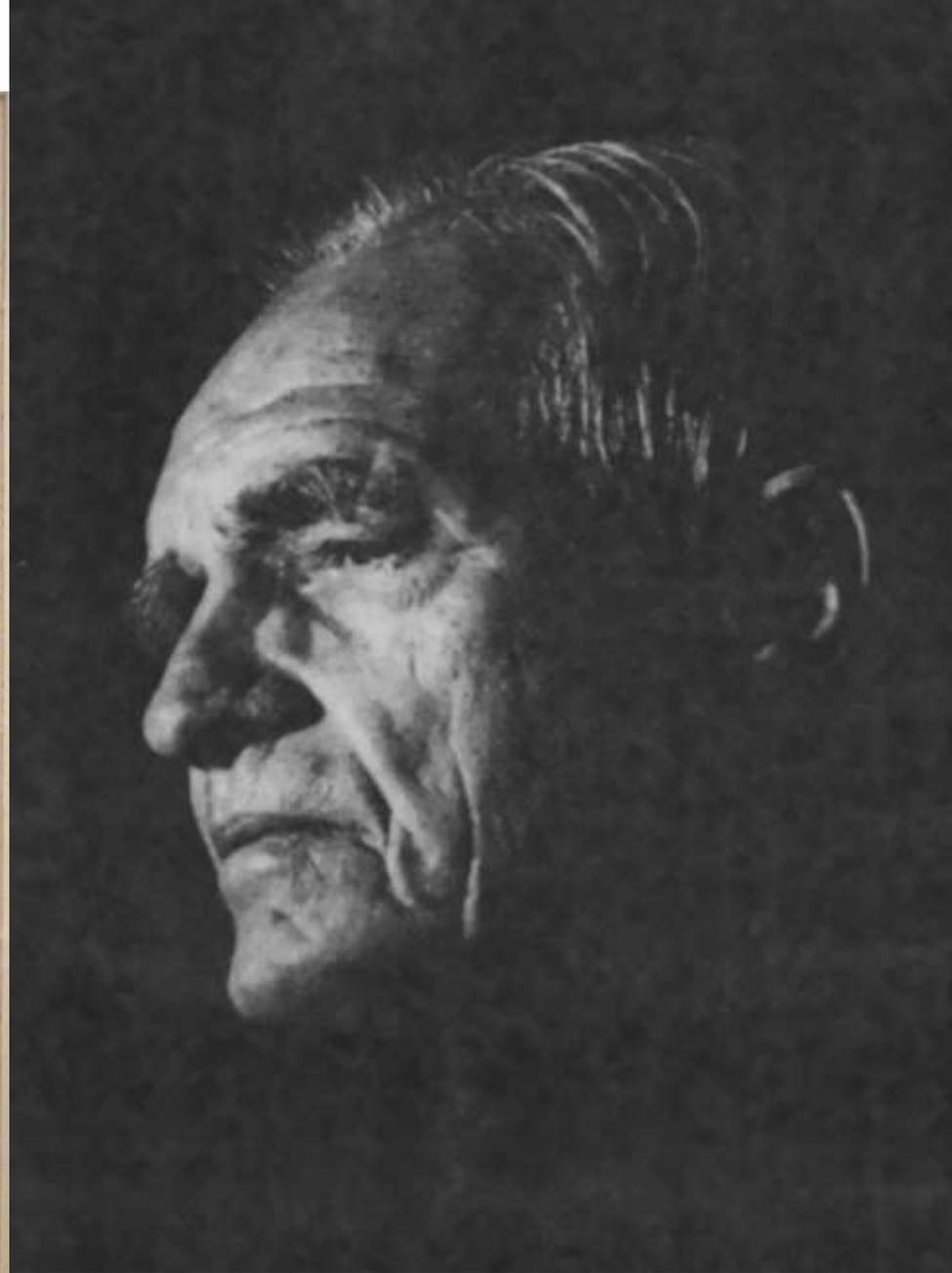
The two watercolors presented, here, were done in one afternoon when our class went to my cabin just outside Blue Ridge, Georgia. He sat on a camp-stool right in front of the river, painted it, then turned around and painted the cabin. We asked him to paint a portrait from beginning to end, to demonstrate his process. I agreed to sit for him, so at each class, he set aside time to paint, until the portrait (on display, here) was finished.

His family sent him to college to be an engineer, I believe. One day, he happened to take a short-cut through the art department. Captivated, he immediately changed his major to art, much to his family's chagrin.

He said Maudie was much more talented than he, & that he had to work harder. Maudie told me, she valued his painting far above her own. Essentially giving up art as a profession, she cared for him & their two children while Clair worked as Art Director for Brown & Bigelow Calendar Company, supervising artists like Norman Rockwell.

Clair was not very tall in stature, though even in his nineties, his posture was good. He looked like a teenager walking down the street in his jeans. No one would guess he had lived with cancer for quite some time. His great sense of humor was proof that "a merry heart does good like a medicine."

He slipped away, in his Baldwin Court apartment in September 1995.



And there you have Jaci's gallery show at Benton House.
It's a lovely place; if you haven't visited..... well, you should!



There's always something interesting going on (planned or not) & the people are so delightful, visiting always makes my day. Clockwise: Visiting Pianist; Caregivers' Clutch; Visiting Bird, Dustin Dancin' with Jaci. *Scenes from Benton House "Assisted Living" area.*





Life in "Beacon"

"Beacon" is the Memory Care Unit of Benton House, and is the brightest Memory-Care Unit I have ever visited. They dance in there twice A week, and in Assisted Living twice a week.

Jaci goes dancing and does art

In both places, though

She lives in

Beacon.

