

From Nana's Back Porch: Famous Artist Steve Penley

Hello, this is Nana from my back porch. Thank you for joining me today. You are all artists!

Hello and welcome. I'm Nana, and today we are going to be speaking about a very talented artist from my home state of Georgia. His name is Steve Penley. Stephan Lyall Penley was born into a family of artists and musicians in 1964 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Penley family moved to Athens, Georgia, and then to Macon, Georgia, where Steve graduated from First Presbyterian Day School.

He continued his studies at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and at the University of Georgia. After college, Steve was working odd jobs while painting on his canvases part-time when his talent was recognized by an attorney and art enthusiast named Robert Steed. Mr. Steed's friendship and patronage helped Steve connect with many other clients and to grow his business. Penley quickly gained recognition for his bold strokes of paint, vivid colors, and he also painted historical paintings this way.

His paintings bordered on what I consider modern art. And it was like nothing the country had ever seen before, this explosion of color. And it was just done in almost a messy way, if you get my feeling, it's sort of like when we take our pastels and I say, "Just smudge it in with your fingers, use your painter finger." Well, he uses oils and he was able to achieve this sort of painting it in.

His art just flourished. And while painting athletes at the last two Olympic games, he really became well-known worldwide. He had paintings of athletes, swimming and high jumping, and close-ups that you could see the agony in their faces. He also did an iconic up close portrait of the Lady Liberty in the Statue of Liberty. And I think that you might enjoy painting a lesson from Steve Penley's Statue of Liberty with me sometime.

Steve is now one of America's most celebrated artists with works exhibited worldwide. He has created many projects for major corporations, such as

Coca Cola, AirTran, and Southwest Airways. Kaiser Permanente, Fox News, as well as he has painted several United States presidents.

Penley has authored several books of his own and illustrated books, including several, by Coach Vince Dooley of the University of Georgia. He has received a number of awards and honors for his talent and has donated countless paintings to charities and to organizations in his community and state, as well as across the nation.

He is especially considerate of the honor he believes to be involved with organizations that benefit our service men and women and veterans. Yes, he's from my state, and I unashamedly am quite proud of Steve Penley. And I hope that you've enjoyed this tiny conversation about this man who paints these wonderful paintings.

And I hope sometime you will look him up whether on the internet, or if you happen to find that he has a painting that will be exhibited in your area in a museum. Or if you know someone that has a print or even a wonderful original, go see it. You'll see what I mean, it just soars right off of the canvas. Now, this man, to me, is an artist.

Thank you for joining me. And I want you to always, always remember that You ARE Artists.

Love, Nana.

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"There are no mistakes in chalk pastel art!" - Nana

Thank you for listening, artist friends! Please leave a review and share this with a friend. We invite you to join us in the You ARE an Artist Clubhouse at ChalkPastel.com where we have over 700 (Yes, 700!) video art lessons. We would also love for you to join us on Instagram, Facebook, and more, and be sure to tag us when you share photos of your artwork. We cannot wait to see. I'll be talking to you again soon.

