

# JOAN CUNDALL ALLEN

Joan was born in Putney, London, on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 1922, studied art for two years at the Guildford School of Art. This was interrupted by the war when she served as an Officer in the army. After the war Joan married and joined her husband in Uganda for 16 years during which they were seconded to the British Embassy in Washington DC for a period of 6 months. Whilst in Uganda she recorded the local flora, illustrated books, painted murals, designed theatre sets and costumes and also taught art at the local African Training School.

Peter was then posted to Lusaka in Zambia where Joan's work was chosen for an art exhibition held as part of the Independence Day celebrations. She also did the interior decorations for the Ridgeway Hotel.

In 1966 they came to South Africa. During their 8 years in Johannesburg Joan painted in the studios of Sidney Goldblatt and Lionel Abrams. She held the first of her solo shows in Pretoria. This was a great success and she went on to have several more exhibitions. In 1974 Joan and Peter moved to Simon's Town. Regrettably, Peter passed away in 1977 but Joan continued to live in Simon's Town, travelling annually to her "other" home and family in England.



During their marriage, Joan and Peter travelled extensively and that, together with her life in Africa, has introduced vibrant and tropical colours to her work. Being brought up on the Norfolk Broads, sailing on Lake Victoria and now living in Simon's Town, overlooking False Bay, have all contributed to Joan's love of painting the sea in its many moods, sometimes in fairly abstract form.

Several reviewers of various exhibitions have made reference to Joan's colour technique and her abstract interpretations of most subjects. Indeed Joan refers to herself as a colourist.

Joan Cundall Allen continues to paint with passion and enthusiasm and is a constant inspiration to many people.



*A painting from the Starfish series*