

Alan Petersen – A Brief Biography

Artist and curator Alan Petersen worked on the South Rim of Grand Canyon for three years before moving to Flagstaff, Arizona in 1980. He also worked as a river guide on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon for eight years. His own paintings have their source in the light, space and landforms of the Colorado Plateau, and explore the formal relationships between color and pictorial space. Alan serves as the Curator of Fine Arts at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff where he has curated exhibitions of work by such notable artists as Gunnar Widforss, Joella Jean Mahoney, Merrill Mahaffey, Bruce Aiken and Ed Mell, among others. He is currently working on a book on Merrill Mahaffey as well as one on Gunnar Widforss and a catalogue raisonné of Widforss' paintings. He also teaches painting, art history and courses pertaining to the Colorado Plateau region at Coconino Community College.