

# Better Late than Never

Sedona's Barbara Brown achieves lifelong dreams of becoming a sculptor and a teacher

*Story, photography by Steve Ayers*

Barbara Brown is a sculptor. She is also a teacher.

She has waited a long time to be able to say that.

Although she never sculpted until 11 years ago, and she never taught until six years ago, she believes that teaching is what she has always wanted to do.

"I have wanted to teach for 58 years, and although I didn't realize it, I wanted to teach sculpting," Brown said. "It just took a great teacher or two to help bring it out."

And a great teacher or two is what she had the good fortune to meet up with.

Originally from New Hampshire, Barbara moved to Sedona in 1993 from California. She no sooner got to town than she decided to take a class in sculpture and ended up in a class with local legend Eugenia Everett.

"Eugenia was in her 80s when I met her," Brown said. "She was inspiring. I don't know if it was her style or my own latent desire, but I knew right away that I wanted to not only master sculpting, but to begin teaching it as soon as I could. I knew it before I finished my first piece.

"By the time I had finished a workshop with John Soderberg a couple of years later, my life had totally changed.

"Now I would just like to inspire someone else the same way John and Eugenia inspired me," Brown said.

Barbara Brown now has the fulfillment of that dream in the grasp of her talented hands.

June 21, Brown opened up here dream school, Sculpture in Sedona. Located at 50 Stutz Bearcat Drive #10, the studio will feature instruction in a variety of sculpture techniques and materials.

The classes are offered at all

levels from beginner to accomplished.

"Since you work at your own pace with any art form, we tailor the classes to all levels. Part of the beauty of learning with others is that we learn from each another," Brown said.

Classes are offered in water-based and oil-based clays. Students will be exposed to making not only free standing sculptures; they will also work with bas relief.

Sculpture in Sedona will also offer classes and workshops with visiting artists.

"I love teaching other what I do. And having this space will allow me to bring in other accomplished artists," she said.

She has already scheduled workshops and multi-day classes with some accomplished local sculptures and artists. The current list includes John Soderberg, Joyce Killebrew and Dani Harmon Zack.

"I have had the privilege of learning from some of the best, and I think anyone interested in sculpting should be exposed the variety of styles and approaches that I have been fortunate to experience," Brown said.

Brown is also planning on putting together a class for children.

"I am planning on having local painter Nancy Robb Dunst co-teach the class. We will be able to teach a couple of mediums and expose the children to a multi media approach to artistic expression," she said.

She offers sculpture classes for all levels on Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. "Play with Clay" with Dani Harman Zack on Tuesday and Thursday, 6-9 p.m. Drop-ins welcome. Cost is \$30 per three-hour session, clay and firing not included.



**Pondering** is the name given to this piece, which was Barbara Brown's first bronze. It reflects the things she remembers for her New Hampshire childhood. After selling eight copies of the sculpture the mold broke. "I love it but, I don't even have one for myself," said Brown.

Brown worked as a professional hairdresser for 35 years until back-to-back automobile accidents left her with the loss of the use of her arms and hands for two years.

"Good friends and clay were my therapy."

During her rehabilitation she began taking classes in graphic design and currently works three day a week as a graphic artists.

Brown's sculptures are on display at TerBush Gallery at Hillside and her well-known frog sculpture is predominately displayed in front of the Javelina Cantina in Sedona.

Sculpture in Sedona is open Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., and Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

She also offers evening class-



The classroom at 50 Stutz Bear Cat Drive #10 in Sedona, doubles as Barbara Browns personal studio. She is currently working on a dragon that is as yet unnamed. "This piece reflects the influence of my friend and mentor John Soderberg," said Brown.

es by appointment and arrangements can be made for private lessons. Barbara Brown can be reached at (928) 301-5382.