



## **“A Painted Lady”**

*Acrylic on canvas, 23 1/2” x 36”*

**Earle McKey III**

United States, 1943-

Donated by the Art Department, Valdosta State University

Earle McKey III is a botanical artist whose prints and paintings of flowers, fruit, and birds resemble the works of classic botanical and bird artists of the late 18th and early 19th century, such as William Bartram and John James Audubon.

He graduated from Valdosta State College with a degree in Art Education, and also studied at the Parsons School of Design in New York City. He has had two one-man shows at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, and he has participated in group shows at The Cloister on Sea Island, Georgia. Some of his works can be purchased as note cards or prints at <http://withlacoocheeware.com/>

He is a long-time resident of Valdosta and is an active participant in the Lowndes County Historical Society.

“A Painted Lady” is very different from the majority of works that McKey does, which are usually depictions of flowers, fruits, or birds, done in the classic style of botanical prints of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The title of this painting is referring to a term used to describe late Victorian and Edwardian houses that have been painted in three or more colors to enhance their architectural details. The most famous neighborhood of this type is found in San Francisco, but other distinctive groups of such homes can be found in Baltimore, St. Louis, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and Cape May, NJ. But since none of those communities have palmetto trees, it must be somewhere around here, but it isn’t a landmark such as the Lapham-Patterson House, or the Fairview Inn or The Crescent or Pebble Hill. The pastel colors do enhance the sense of the colorful architecture, and the warmth of the semi-tropical climate.