



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **VIRGINIA FOUCHÉ BOLTON (1929-2004)**

Virginia Fouché Bolton, a talented watercolorist, was a beloved and active member of South Carolina's art community for more than forty years. She was born in Hartsville and her family moved to Charleston when she was fourteen years old. After attending Memminger High School, Bolton furthered her artistic education at Winthrop College. In 1951, she married Donald Bolton and the couple settled in Mt. Pleasant where they raised five children.

After ten years of marriage, Bolton began her esteemed teaching career at St. John the Baptist Cathedral school where she taught a variety of subjects. Her teaching career later expanded to art classes, which she taught at Moultrie, Wando and Bishop England High Schools. Her passionate teaching style inspired her students, several of which became award-winning artists and art teachers in their own right.

During her teaching career, Bolton began to paint professionally and in 1972, she received an award from the Charleston Scientific and Cultural Educational Fund, which allowed her to travel to Greece to paint for two months. In 1976, she opened her own gallery at 127 Meeting Street in Charleston where she exhibited her colorful scenes of Charleston and its people, alongside her regional landscapes. Her original watercolors and limited edition prints gained acclaim from fellow artists and were very popular among residents and visitors to Charleston who appreciated her depth of skill at capturing the dynamic energy of the city and the surrounding regional landscape, which she adeptly bathed in a glow of diffused translucent light.

In 1981, after receiving her master's degree in Art Teaching from Rhode Island School of Design, Bolton and her husband moved back to South Carolina and settled in Edisto Island, where she was inspired by the local Lowcountry landscape of marshes, woods and beaches.

Bolton exhibited with the Southern Watercolor Society and received numerous local and national awards throughout her career. The artist died at her home in South Carolina in 2004.