



## Meet the Artist...Ray Noll

Dual careers in graphic design and art education over a span of thirty-five years have netted a wealth of creative experience, including creation of a graphic design art curriculum written for grades 3 through 12 and for a two-year college. My career has mostly reflected my desire to help others develop their own artistic expression, no matter their age or ability level.

I came to Valdosta as a Graphic Design Instructor for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College in 2011. I now teach *Stimulating Creative Behavior* courses at VSU. I look forward to a new course for me *African-American Art*. This course will connect contemporary arts and personal hands-on experiences gained during my graduate studies. Learning from local artisans and making traditional West African art at the University of Ghana and the University of Ife in Nigeria, during the long, hot summer of 1977 inspired me to write my first book, *Initiation Rites: A West African Odyssey*, published in 2013. (Available on Amazon.com).

My graphic design/publishing career centered in Washington DC and includes work at The American Geophysical Union, Gallaudet University Press, *BioScience Magazine*, and *Chesapeake Country Life Magazine*. My higher education teaching includes both art and graphic design at: Penn State Altoona, Washington College, Wesley College, and VSU. I have taught evening adult education classes through the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania and VSU, featuring oil painting, figure drawing, and art forgery.

I have continued to show my own fine art over the decades, favoring public spaces in addition to local galleries and museums. Successive trips to Italy since 2004 with my wife, Dr. Deb Marciano, (VSU Dewar College of Education and Human Services) inspire my own most recent drawing and painting techniques.

Favorite art related quote: EARTH without ART is merely "EH".