

# SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

## Alumnae Profile

by Margaret McGlohon '81C

### Torrey Green Stroud '68HS

*Owner, City Art Gallery  
Greenville, NC*

#### Discovering A Passion for Art

Torrey Green Stroud '68HS grew up in Raleigh. With encouragement from her mother, in 1966 she made the switch away from public school. "I knew I'd be academically challenged," she explains. "I enrolled and began at Saint Mary's in my junior year."

Torrey made lifelong friends there and fondly remembers the impact of faculty. "I have great memories of my English teacher, Mrs. Pancoast, and history teacher, Mr. Roberts."

As a student, Torrey was involved in dance and was a Sigma (she thinks!). After graduation, she went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. In 1977, she received a master's degree in Education from East Carolina University.

#### Family and Career

Torrey and her husband, Tommy, settled in New Bern where they raised their two children. It was there in the 1980's that Torrey's career in the art world began.

"I'd always enjoyed art and had collected pieces for myself over the years," she says. "I became a board member on the Craven Arts Council and served on their Exhibition committee. During those years, I became acquainted with many talented artists in North Carolina and in 1985, together with several members of the committee, decided to start an art gallery."

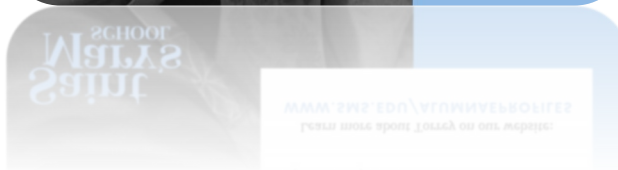
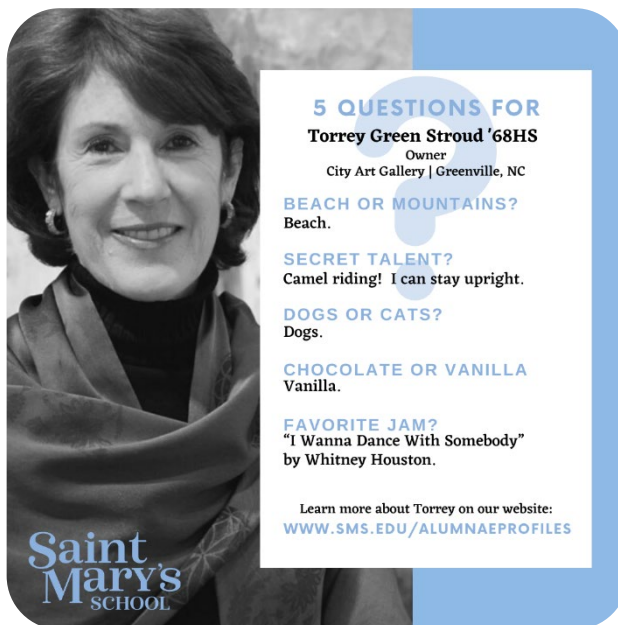
Their gallery, City Art Works, was originally located in downtown New Bern in the showroom of an old car dealership. In the mid-1990's, it was relocated to Greenville, NC, where Torrey became sole owner and changed its name to City Art Gallery.

"In Greenville, I met Saint Mary's alumna Peg Corbitt Hardee '73HS '75C and for 15 years we were partners in the gallery."

Torrey believes it's important to make art affordable and available to all. At City Art Gallery, she works hard to ensure that happens.

"We host 10 shows a year, which is both physically demanding and challenging from a marketing standpoint," she explains. "Each individual or group show showcases a featured artist, beginning with an opening reception with artists in attendance."

For the past several years, the gallery has been located in the Lynndale Shoppes, and this December, celebrated 34 years in business. City Art Gallery represents 63 artists with a broad range of talent with



*Continued...*

For information regarding re-prints of this article, please contact Saint Mary's School's Alumnae and Development Office at [development@sms.edu](mailto:development@sms.edu).

an extensive collection of paintings, ceramics, sculpture, glass and photography. Throughout Torrey's career, she has enjoyed getting to know artists and clients from all walks of life.

"The relationships you make with people in a variety of cities and states, and with people of all ages, keeps me energized," she says. "I'm also particularly thankful for my amazing gallery team who are also working artists, art historians, and designers."

Torrey notes that the gallery's website is now key to promoting their artists. "Maintaining the website is just as important today for buyers of art as it is for the gallery itself."

Outside of the gallery, Torrey remains engaged with her community and her alma mater. She currently serves as a trustee of her church and is involved with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain where she recently established an art fund to provide art instruction for participants interested in art.

"I previously served on the Council of Friends at Tryon Palace and was also a longtime member of Saint Mary's Alumnae Council," she says.

In fact, Torrey recently hosted a regional alumnae event at City Art Gallery and continues to support Saint Mary's through her annual giving to the Annual Fund, in addition to attending campus and other alumnae events. She also thoroughly enjoys her latest role as grandmother to her four grandchildren.

One of her other passions is traveling to museums to study and learn. "I recently travelled to the Island of Iona in Scotland," she explains. "It's considered 'A Thin Place' where the space between heaven and earth collapses."

Earlier this fall, Torrey travelled to locations in eastern Europe, including Vienna to see the work of Gustav Klimt and the world renowned ArtBerlin fair.

Her advice for today's Saint Mary's girls? "If you love something, seek it out and become a life-long learner! It's important to love what you do and to expand your horizons."

Saint Mary's alumnae like Torrey Green Stroud '68HS graduate with the skills, knowledge, and integrity they need for success. Whether furthering their education, pursuing professional careers, raising their families, or leading as volunteers, our alumnae are agents for positive change. Torrey's story demonstrates the abilities Saint Mary's women have to do big things and we're glad to share her story.

If you get to Greenville, Torrey invites you to stop by City Art Gallery. You'll enjoy the art and getting to know her!

###

© 2019