



“Crepe Myrtles on the VCC”

(Valdosta Country Club)

Mixed media on canvas, 2012, 46 ½” x 34 ½ ”

Ronald Zaccari

United States, 1937-

Purchased by the Foundation

Ronald Zaccari’s parents, who played in jazz bands and were interested in the arts, denied him coloring books but instead gave him plenty of paper and clay with which to create drawings and figures from fourth grade on. Intending to be a basketball coach, he went to Slippery Rock State University, but wound up majoring in art instead after he had taken an art course as an elective and was encouraged to major in it by the teacher. Ron Zaccari then went on Carnegie Mellon to study studio art while simultaneously studying art history at the University of Pittsburg. He finished his academic studies at Penn State, pursuing a doctorate in Art and Anthropology, where his studies in the functionalism of Claude Levi-Strauss led him into his career as a university administrator.

Ronald Zaccari taught in the art departments of Edinboro State University, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and was Head of the Visual Arts Department at Southeastern Louisiana University, and held the rank of Professor of Art in all his university administration jobs. Over the years his work has been exhibited in Louisiana, Texas, Florida, New York, West Virginia, and Georgia, and he has served as a judge or juror at exhibitions in Florida, Texas and Louisiana. His sculptures are owned by private collectors and one is in the Jerry and Kay Jennett Lecture Hall on the campus of Valdosta State University.

“Crepe Myrtles on the VCC” came about as a result of the fact that Ronald Zaccari’s home sits on the tee box of the 7th hole of the Valdosta Country Club with crepe myrtles between it and the golfers teeing off, which he sees every day. He started sketching it one day, then transferred it to a painting.¹ The painting also includes pieces of colored sewing thread, which he used to draw on the painting by using a wood stylus and Elmer’s wood glue to manipulate the strings. He used another instrument in order to remove the excess glue. The painting was originally included in a 2012 exhibit at the Turner Art Center, along with some other smaller pieces were also purchased by the foundation.

1.Zaccari, Ronald. Personal Interview by Denise Montgomery. 3 September 2013