

September 1, 2001 Issue

## Why watercolor?



It's back to school! Summer vacations have been taken and now, all relaxed and ready to get back to routines, young people everywhere are going through the daily rituals of getting up, getting dressed, getting a good breakfast, and getting out the door. Three of my four grandchildren are "school kids". Megan Emily, the model for several of my pastel paintings, is in pre-school. Zach, now six years old realized the first day in first grade that he had spent "SIX HOURS" in school and Molly at ten is an old hand at this school business. They love school! So do the Moms and Dads! Although there is the sense of emptiness in the house, there is suddenly a release of time. Time to have another cup of coffee. Time to catch up on those projects that require undivided attention. And for Grandparents? There is a pride and joy in the newest generation being well and thoroughly educated to take charge of this wonderful world.

Next issue: A passion for pastels

I have been a classic oil painter for most of my career. I like the impasto feel of the paint and the realistic results of a finished oil on canvas. So why watercolor?

A few years ago, my hobby of gardening resulted in a myriad of beautiful blooms. They begged to be memorialized in their full beauty. Somehow, oil paintings seemed ponderous and too heavy-handed to capture the fragile delicacy of their silken petals. So I began to experiment with watercolor.

### **“So I began to experiment with watercolor”**

Using a layering technique, I began with daffodils I had received for Easter. As I brushed lightly over the paper, stains of soft yellow-gold began to grow in intensity while still remaining transparent. The dark areas held the hint of translucent glow that could be observed in the natural setting of sunlight and shadow. I was very pleased with the results.

Since then all my floral paintings (with a few exceptions) have been done in watercolor. The backgrounds are usually impressionistic, with the primary flowers holding forth in realistic detail. Besides the advantages of easy set-up and clean-up, watercolor is a way for me to break out of the mold of traditional oil painting. Recently I have painted other subjects in watercolor.

### **“Watercolor is a quick, efficient way to get the color noted”**

When I am out on location

researching lighthouses and seascapes, watercolor is a quick, efficient way to get the color noted for future oil paintings. Often, the watercolor sketch becomes a finished work in itself. Sometimes the glow of an autumn afternoon or the grey monochromatic overcast sky are perfect subjects for the misty look of watercolor.

Landscapes, lighthouses, beach scenes, and, yes, even a seascape have been part of this new way of expressing myself. I was asked to do a larger sized watercolor of a traditional seascape by a collector of mine. The experience I had with florals gave me the impetus I needed to say o.k. The result was gratifying to the client and to me. Watercolor is quick and easy and fun. While I will always paint with oil, my florals will be executed in water media, as well as lighthouses, beach scenes, landscapes and yes, even a seascape. Look for these on my website in the near future.

## Featured Artwork

**Lavender Rose**



"A 'lavender rose' is a lovely result of hybridization of roses in recent years. This sweet delicate beauty is sure to find a special place in your heart."

**Purple Iris**



"In late spring, as the days warm and lengthen, tall, showy, purple iris blooms stretch their petals toward the sky. A soft breeze stirs the edges of each petal, gently moving the lovely iris in a quiet dance."

**The Sunflowers**



"At long last summer is here. How do I know? 'The sunflowers' are in full array. The profusion of yellow and brown blooms delight the eye and warm the heart."