

## Artist Statement

“Painting today, to preserve the past, for tomorrow!” this is my mission, it is my inspiration, it is what drives me to create pieces of tangible art designed to not just showcase the deep, physical beauty of our country, but art that tells the story of America itself, her people, their struggles and triumphs.

When I stand or walk upon the great earth that is our nation, I am forever scanning the horizon, scanning how best to read and render the majestic landscape, its’ swaying grass, sturdy trees, flowing rivers, translucent brooks and streams, how to catch the constant give and take between land and sea, the complex and the simplicity of color dancing across the countryside, breathtaking vistas, kissed and embraced by the sun, they are awe inspiring unto themselves, yet I find they become truly rich and magical, alive, when the extraordinary stories of our nation are intertwined with the natural beauty of these magnificent lands.

Pastels are my medium of choice for all my finished work. They are pure, immediate, and luminous, all important components in my interaction with and interpretation of the American landscape. They are durable, and offer great flexibility which I find allows me the freedom to express and apply a wide range of techniques, necessary to capture the power and strength of the treasured lands, shores, and properties of our country.

Although many of my pastels were created using Canson Mi-Teintes paper, today I find myself using more and more, if not exclusively, the papers by Kitty Wallis, which I often wash with burnt sienna gouache or the ready toned papers of Art Spectrum most often the Terracotta paper.

I tend to be blue-green sensitive and toning or using toned papers that complement my senses really help to make the colors pop. I also find that the Wallis and Art Spectrum papers allow me a more natural feel to each composition, as I use less blending of the pastels with my fingers, or other implements, which allows more of the pastels themselves to interact and blend with each other via applied layers. I have also recently experimented with watercolor board, and toned canvas, among other supports for my artwork.

My art, my focus, my passion, is my mission, painting today, to preserve the past, for tomorrow, and is dedicated to giving a voice, a connection, a link, to those who no longer can speak, but whose spirit forever lives in the bosom of the plants, fields and waters of our nation.