

Pepper Peterson - Artist Statement

I have traveled to many places in the world and have hundreds, if not thousands, of photos of wonderful things I have seen, but finally decided the most beautiful people and places are right here in the Pacific Northwest. There is nothing more beautiful to me than sunlight filtering through the soft windswept grasses along a trail on Lopez Island, for example. Where does the trail lead? The empty bicycle alongside a country road: Did the person get off to pick the wild flowers that are blooming there? The couple seated at a sidewalk café: Are they in love? Does their body language give you a hint of what they are talking about? I want to leave the viewer asking to know more about my paintings.

Watercolor, pastel pigment, oil and oil sticks are the mediums I paint with. I sometimes squish oil paint straight out of the tube onto the canvas, add oil sticks, and smear it around with my fingers to create a story.

Vivid clear color is something I work hard to attain in every painting. Experimenting with the use of color is a large part of my painting process.

Music is also an essential part of my painting process. When I paint singers or dancers, I listen to Etta or Dinah or Billie sometimes swing dancing with my little dog Trinket in my arms. When I painted my cowboys and cowgirls after a trip to Wyoming, I listened to country music and did the two-step. When I paint Italian scenes, I listen to Bocelli or the old Italian songs my grandmother used to sing.

I am blessed! I live in a nice house on Cougar Mountain with a wonderful husband (my patron) who spoils me. I have a great big home studio with pastels set up on one side of the room and oils and oil sticks set up on the other side. I usually have several paintings going at once. We enjoy traveling several times a year. In 2006 we went to South America, San Francisco, Puerto Vallarta and Las Vegas. I am never without my camera!

I am a member of Women Painters of Washington as well as several other art organizations.

My great-grandmother was an artist. Several of her paintings hang on my living-room wall. She painted into her nineties! That is my goal. What will I paint next? I can't wait to find out!

From Women Painters of Washington:

WHY I PAINT

"Painting is both the agony and the ecstasy. Nothing is better than the high I get from creating a painting I like a lot. Nothing can put me into a funk quicker than if I paint a failure. I guess I can't help myself. It's an addiction at this point in my life.

I have painted in pastels, watercolors, oil sticks, and now most of the time in traditional oils. Within the last 6 months or so, my art has taken an unexplained turn for the better. (Maybe it's all the miles I've put on my brush.) At the present time, I am obsessed with painting a group of beautiful, sophisticated women for a large show somewhere this year. This will not be my last obsession. I've lived long enough to know that.

Because my great grandmother painted, I feel a closer connection with her than with other ancestors. Some of her paintings hang in my living room. My goal is not to paint for monetary gain but to paint for my children and my grandchildren and generations I'll never know, but will know me through my art."

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

2006

- Columbia Center Gallery Celebration V, WPW
- Featured Artist, Scott Milo Gallery, Anacortes, WA
- The Divas 4, Serendipity Fine Art, LaConner, WA
- Alive With Color, Mercer Island Gallery, Mercer Is., WA

2005

- Bellevue Arts Fair, 2002 & 2005
- Edmonds Arts Festival, 2002 & 2005

2002

- MIVAL Art Show, Mercer Island, WA
- Three Woman Show, Mercer Island Gallery, WA

2001

- Three Woman Show, Swansons Nursery, Ballard, WA
- Solo Show, Renton Arts Commission, Renton, WA
- Artist of the Month, Artist Collections, Seattle, WA
- Four Artists at Flamingo Gallery, Renton, WA

2000

- Unitarian Church Gallery, Bellevue, WA
- Two Woman Show, Squak Mountain Nursery Gift Shop, Issaquah, WA

1999

- Asian Art Museum Show, Seattle
- Issaquah Womens Club Christmas Show, Issaquah, WA
- Solo Show, Front Gallery, Studio Art, Everett, WA
- Solo Exhibition, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA
- EAFA art shows, 1998 through 2001

GALLERIES PAST AND PRESENT

- Serendipity Fine Art, LaConner, WA
- Up Front Art, Issaquah, WA
- Scott Milo Gallery, Anacortes, WA
- Flamingo Gallery, Renton, WA
- Cobblestone Gallery, Pioneer Square, Seattle, WA
- Studio Art Gallery, Everett, WA
- Art Concepts, Kirkland, WA
- Artistic Collections, Seattle
- True Northwest, Kirkland, WA
- Squak Mountain Nursery and Gift Shop, Issaquah, WA

CORPORATE ACQUISITION

- Windermere Real Estate

ARTS COMMISSION PURCHASE

- Contest winner for poster and original painting. Purchase by Issaquah Arts Commission

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Co-Chair, Issaquah Art in the Barn, Issaquah, WA 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003
- Co-Owner, Cobblestone Gallery, Pioneer Square, WA 1999, 2000, 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Eastside Association of Fine Arts, served on variety of committees
- Northwest Watercolor Society, served on variety of committees
- Northwest Pastel Society
- Women Painters of Washington

ART EDUCATION

- Design and Art related classes at Pierce Junior College, Los Angeles, CA; Los Angeles City College, L.A., CA; Santa Monica City College, Santa Monica, CA; Bellevue City College, Bellevue, WA
- Ongoing classes with Michelle Cooper, Cathe Gill, Deanne Lemley, Nancy Bogni, Nancy Fulton, and Ned Mueller
- Workshops with Eric Weigardt, Arne Westerman, Doug Dawson, Susan Ogilvie, Henry Stinson and others