

Perspectives

Newsletter for Frances Dodd Paintings

JANUARY 2006

Happy New Year!

With this letter I'd like to wish all of you a most happy and healthy New Year and may all that you wish for, desire and work for become a reality.

With the onset of winter—and winter comes late in this southern part of Colorado—I look forward to long working hours in my new studio. These months are usually my most productive with not a lot to tempt me outdoors. This is a time of excitement for me—I can hardly wait to get to work after the weeks of Christmas preparation and celebration. There are so many images in my head that I want to express in paint or pastel and the start of a new year fills me with resolve to improve my work and raise it to another level of

creativity. Somehow my “masterpiece” is always one step ahead of me, like a tantalizing carrot that I can't quite reach! That's one reason painting remains such a passion for me—the journey is on-going and the destination is just around the corner! I do cherish these winter months and try not to allow too many interruptions.

However, I have to amend that somewhat since we adopted Roxie, a beautiful rescued Sheltie last summer. She gives me a good excuse to get out most mornings for her—and my—45 minute walk. She's my constant and welcome companion in the studio. Tango and Two-Step, our two Siamese mix cats are finally beginning to accept her as a member of the family.

My new studio is a constant joy and delight to me and I feel so blessed to have this wonderful space to work in. Coming to it each morning takes my breath away and makes me think—what can I create this day to give back a little of what I've been given?



“Windswept—Trail Ridge Road”

Oil on canvas 40x50

I was struck by how the trees on this windy pinnacle in Rocky Mountain National Park cling to life.

The Show Must Go On

Last Fall I had two paintings juried into a national exhibit in Hammond, LA which is just outside of New Orleans. The paintings were shipped and 3 days later Katrina roared through and I accepted the fact that I'd never see those paintings again. After a

week I took a chance, called the Hammond Art Center and was surprised when someone actually answered the phone! The paintings had arrived, the show was up, the reception had to be postponed for two weeks, but all was well. Understandably, the number of

visitors to the show were less than usual, but one of my paintings did sell. I just have to admire everyone involved in the organization of the exhibit for their courage and fortitude. Some of their own homes were badly damaged.



Recent Events

In October I presented a Master Class in pastel to the Colorado Art Educators' Association which was held at the Marriott Hotel here in Pueblo. Previously I presented one in Breckenridge which is always fun to travel to, but I can't beat the convenience of having it in my own back yard! Again, I enjoyed working with so many wonderful and gifted teachers.

I was invited to participate in an art auction in November to help raise funds for our beautiful Riverwalk, HARP, (Historic Arkansas Riverwalk

Project). My oil painting "Riverwalk" - what else! - brought a good price.

"Bicycle Path" was juried into the Pastel Society of America exhibit in New York City and won the National Arts Club Purchase Award. This popular painting has made the rounds of numerous shows, won awards and, finally, has found a home!

At the invitation of the Southern Colorado Watercolor Society I conducted a critique of some 25-30 watercolor paintings of their membership. The invitation surprised

me since watercolor is not a medium I use, but I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, although at the end of the evening my head was swimming! A good exercise for thinking on my feet!

My own studio exhibit in October was very successful and I thank all of you who attended. Even if you didn't walk out with a painting, it was a joy to greet you, show you my new studio and new work!

Music by Tom Munch added to the ambiance of the three day event.

Look at life with the eyes of a child!

"Creative talent is not inborn but something an artist needs to acquire. It can only be acquired by dismissing the flood of ready-made images that surround us. These are to the eye what prejudices are to the mind. In order to avoid these distortions, the artist has to look at life as he did when he was a child."

Henri Matisse

Coming up

I'll be starting another 6 week pastel course on February 8 in Colorado Springs for Sheppard Art Institute. This one will be on Wednesday afternoons 1-4 pm. For information call 719-282-2706.

A one day workshop, again in pastel, will be given at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center

in Pueblo on February 18. 719-295-7200 for info.

In March Allan and I will be traveling to Sterling, Kansas to jury a state-wide exhibit of art at Sterling College. The entries will include paintings in all media, photography, ceramics, sculpture and jewelry in classifications of amateur

and professional. A daunting task! There will be a reception in our honor at which we'll exhibit some of our own work.

Also in March I'll be judging a show in Canon City, "Salute to Southern Colorado Artists" for the Fremont Art Guild.

New Venue

Allan and I are showing our work at the Pueblo Convention Center for one year starting this month. His striking black and white photographs and my oil and pastel paintings can be seen in the showcase inside the front entrance of the building. The display will be changed from time to time and if you're in the area, do drop in and take a peek!

Elsewhere in Pueblo my work is shown at John Deaux Gallery, 221 S. Union and, of course, at my studio. I keep fairly regular hours, but it would be best to call in advance at 719-547-0165. I'd love to have you stop by!

In Colorado Springs, see my work at Gallery at Rich Designs, 1731 Mt. Washington Ave.

Other Galleries:

Wilde-Meyer Gallery, Scottsdale and Tucson, AZ

Max'ims in Greeley and Estes Park, CO

Firedworks Gallery, Alamosa, CO
Center Street Gallery, Jackson, WY

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