

Jan Norsetter

"Painting for me satisfies an urge to create something tangible that tells a story or stirs the imagination. The landscapes and still life studies I paint provide different outlets for an artist's take on the world that connects this artist with past, present and future.

Oil painting is my medium above all others. For my plein air paintings, working in oils has taught me to trust the spontaneity of moments in nature and I put brush to canvas with strong, assured strokes.

Whether the final result depicts the sun setting on an autumn afternoon or rising in the cold dawn of deep winter, I work with conviction to record a moment in time.

My goal in working outdoors is to paint a sense of place. I try to communicate the emotional, physical response I feel and invite viewers to discover their own interpretation.

Ordinary scenes draw me in more than a spectacular vista because they hide a quiet beauty that suits my approach. Since the start of my interest in plein air painting, the Sugar River Watershed and its surrounds near my home in Verona, Wisconsin, has been a frequent subject with ever-changing views year round.

I also take my painting farther afield on trips that let me hone my craft and tell other stories. I've painted en plein air around the western United States and in the south. Along with travels to Italy, Ireland, Scotland and Norway, these away places remind me what is endlessly unique in the familiar.

Atmospheric. Detailed. Captivating. A color palette borrowed from nature.

My life in painting builds from this and more. It is the work that gives me joy and a reason to keep on learning."

The artist has exhibited in more than 30 juried, collaborative or solo art shows. Selected paintings, prints and her rosemailing are in many permanent and private collections across the country. Awards include top honors in numerous plein air competitions and rosemailing exhibitions. In addition to her work as an artist, Norsetter teaches landscape painting and rosemailing.

She continues to draw inspiration from respected mentors in oil painting and rosemailing.

Four Wisconsin-based galleries represent Norsetter's work: Zazen Gallery in Paoli, Pink Llama Gallery in Cedarburg, and Dillon Gallery in Madison.



Jonathan Wilde

"The focus of my paintings has been the "driftless" country to the west of where I live. I'm strongly attracted to the wooded hills, especially from late fall till green-up. I'm particularly interested in the colors and contours of that landscape.

Usually found in the big vistas on the hill tops or looking up and down the valleys. These valleys all have streams, which I've always enjoyed and have lately been painting. As I'm mostly painting "plein-air," the bird life is often part of my day, and they keep working their way into these paintings, as has been the case throughout my painting career.

Lately I've come to believe that the relationship between a painter and a particular place may be familiar, even intimate, but a certain process or emotional transaction still must take place.

To paraphrase Andrew Wyeth: "It's not the subject; it's what you carry to it that's important." What I feel about it, even though the Wisconsin landscape is very beautiful, is that it can be just as trite and ordinary as any other place unless you have something to add to it. Something has to happen to me in the moment, that flash of realization that unlocks past experiences.

These days I find that over and over it is the feeling I get from having spent time in various "landscapes" as a boy and young man. Often a field with my father that moves me to try to portray a place, the weather, the feel of it all.

For me, the place where I was born and raised is the place to paint."

His works are in many private and public collections throughout the world, including The Smithsonian Institution and The National Wildlife Federation. He has won numerous awards and been Artist of the Year for Southern WI Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Northwoods Wildlife Center, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and The North American Raptor Breeders Association.



Seasons of the Sugar River

Adult Plein air Workshop (ages 18 and up)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Contact name and number in case of an

emergency: _____

Saturday, June 15, 2019

9am - 4:30pm

Registration is on a first-come first-served basis.
Please register early; class sizes are limited and classes may be cancelled due to low enrollment.
Minimum enrollment: 8 students
Maximum enrollment: 15 students

Cost: \$100

Please make checks out to:

Lower Sugar River Watershed Association

Contact Us

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