



*Web Show — July, 2021*

The following 28 artists, who are members of the Appalachian Pastel Society, participated in this virtual group activity while “Sheltering-in-Place” at their homes. The artwork they created is shared here. Hugs and best wishes to all until we can meet together safely.

## **APS Adventures in Pastel Adventure AAA-1: “A Walk Down Memory Lane”**

**Welcome to our brand new Pastel Adventure Series AAA.**

This is the first of six Adventures in this series. These Adventures are designed for you to enjoy and explore the many facets of pastel painting. We believe the joy of doing these adventures is further enhanced by working with other artists on the same challenge and then sharing our experiences with each other. Join us as we set out on a new Adventure!

In this Adventure, we are going back in time, walking down memory lane and remembering the books we read as children. Think back on what book, fairy tale, bedtime story, favorite character or poem fired up your imagination as a child. A poem I remember was “The Swing” by Robert Louis Stevenson:

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?  
Oh, I do think the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

**Step 1:** For this challenge, we invite you to go through your memory or maybe some childhood books you still have on your shelf and find that something that gives you a creative spark to make a painting.

**Step 2:** Choose the surface, size and whatever pastels you like to help put this memory into a painting.

**Step 3:** When finished (or as far as you can take the painting in the time allotted) take a photo of it. Please feel free to also share your experience concerning your method, thoughts and insights.

**Step 4:** Send the photo of your artwork, your **comments and the title and size** of your painting to Kay Gordon ([jkaygordon364@gmail.com](mailto:jkaygordon364@gmail.com)) by July 28th at 6:00 PM.

**Step 5:** Remember, this deadline is firm and nothing can be posted that is received after 6 PM on July 28th. Your painting does not need to be in its finished form. This adventure is so we can paint together and explore new ideas and techniques with pastels.

**Anne Allen, Hendersonville**



*Lavender Moment with Color 6 x 7 color study*

Artists and writers through the ages have been drawn to flowers as sources of inspiration. Poems and prose about flowers were read to me as a young child.

The beauty of flowers will inspire a painting. Flowers that reach out to me evoke the memory of reading poetry with my mother. Seeing lavender blowing with the wind is one of those moments.

I just returned home from NW Washington with my art journal filled with memories. I painted this color study before I even unpacked from the road trip. I followed the coastline from Southern California north to the majestic Olympic peninsula.

Color in late afternoon is my inspiration. Fields of 2,300 lavender plants on the farm turn pink and magenta in sunlight. I used Diane Townsend pastels to recreate the intensity of memories evoked by staying three days on the farm.

## Kathy Amspacher, Hendersonville

I had a choice between a favorite Golden Book about a girl feeding chipmunks on her porch or a selection from the Science Fiction Book Club.

I couldn't come up with anything to fit the Isaac Asimov books so went with a Golden Book. Remember the children with the big red cheeks!!

I used a photo reference from my back yard remote camera. Thanks again for this fun exercise!

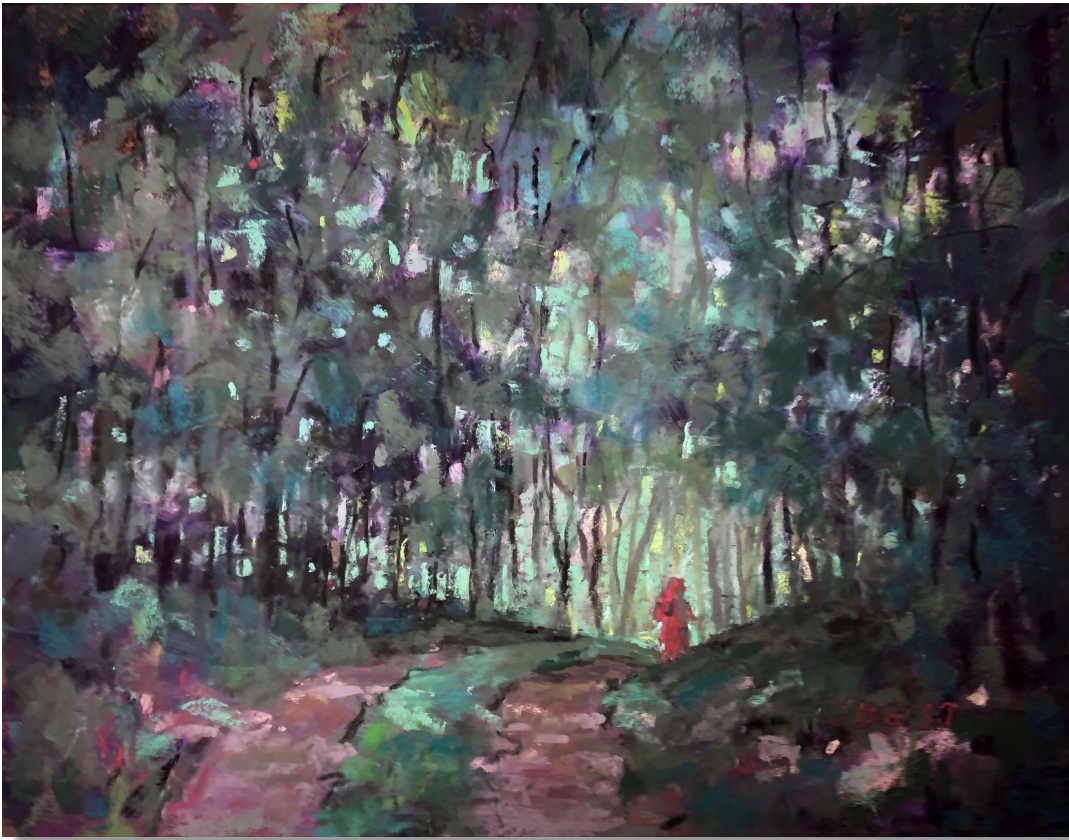


*Chippy* 9 x 12





Jane Best, Morganton



*Little Red Riding Hood*

9 x 12

“Little Red Riding Hood”

9x12 art spectrum burnt umber pastel paper.

When I walked in the woods near my house last week, i thought about the woods that Little Red Riding Hood might have walked through on the way to her grandmother’s house. I didn’t see a wolf but did catch a glimpse of three deer.



**Beryl Bradley, Brevard**

I always loved that child's poem. Painting night skies is, for me, a greater challenge than it looks like it should be.

This is on black sanded paper.

Thanks once again for providing these challenges! However I am looking forward to the in person meetings with the demos and classes!



*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*

*10 x 12*

**Deborah Chase, Hendersonville**

*Robinton's Cup of Benden Wine*

*14 x 10*



There's no doubt which direction this piece goes. It's raining so I want to get this to you before any power outage issues. Happens all the time around here. Stay cool and keep up all the good work you do.

In junior high I read *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey and have been hooked on fantasy novels ever since. I enjoy the creativity and imagination of these authors. This piece is based on her *Dragon Riders of Pern* series. I had the chalice and made up the rest. I know nothing about dragon aerodynamics but I think it involves magic.





When I was a little girl I used to love reading my Raggedy Ann and Andy. The other thing I always loved to do was swing. So I tried to combine the two. It needs a little more work, but it brought back some good memories.

I did a little research and found the first book was published in 1918 by Johnny Guelle. In all there were about 40 books published and I think people can still find them. I did about 20 years ago for my grandniece.

I used Kitty Wallis white paper 12 x 16. The pastels were Girault, Holbein, Faber Castell and some others. I didn't do an underpainting although I did lay in some light blue to dim the white. So it's waiting for me to get back to it.

This is from memories of the book “The Little Engine That Could” by Watty Piper published in 1930. This little book embodies my Mother’s philosophy of life, for she taught us that we could do anything if we tried hard enough and that if wanted something we could not afford—we could make it. It brought back many memories of mf my Mother.

This is a painting done about the book, “The Little Engine that Could” by Watty Piper published in 1930. This book embodied me Mother’s philosophy of life. She taught us that if we wanted something, we could get it. If we couldn’t afford it we would always make it. I used soft pastels and a few pastel pencils on a piece of 6 x 6 Wallis paper. I think the color of the paper was called grey mist, but am not sure. Doing this brought many memories. I was out of town, so only worked on this today.

*The Little Engine that Could* 6 x 6





**Diane de Grasse, Black Mountain**

*Willie the Whale  
and Friend*

9 x 12



on Art Spectrum paper, a mix of mostly soft pastels

Thinking for days on this one. It was in the 1940s; I remembered Wind in the Willows, Scuttlebutt Goes to War and snippets of others, but what has stayed with me is an early Disney film from “Make Mine Music”, Willie the Operatic Whale also called Willie the Whale Who Wanted to Sing at the Met.

My wonderful Grandmother got me the album to introduce me to operatic music. At 8 I learned pieces from famous operas, sung by a whale! (Actually Nelson Eddy) His seagull friend showed Willie newspaper clippings to encourage his career.

BUT one fisherman was convinced that Willie had actually *swallowed* opera singers and he was out to save them. Willie kept singing as the boat approached and I still tear up today when the harpoon flies and mid-song Willie is killed.

I never bought it that Willie was “still singing in Heaven”. Here is my tribute to Willie and his friend

One of the most poignant poems I have ever heard - and one of the first I ever memorized - is Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue". Whenever I hear or think of it, it tugs on something deep within me.

Later, as a young mother, when I had a miscarriage, it became even more meaningful to me. The toy dog, the tin soldier, and the angel's song - I've tried to convey in this simple painting .. because to complex an image, to detailed, would minimize the heartrending emotion.

*"Little Boy Blue" by Eugene Field*

*Angel's Song* 12 x 9



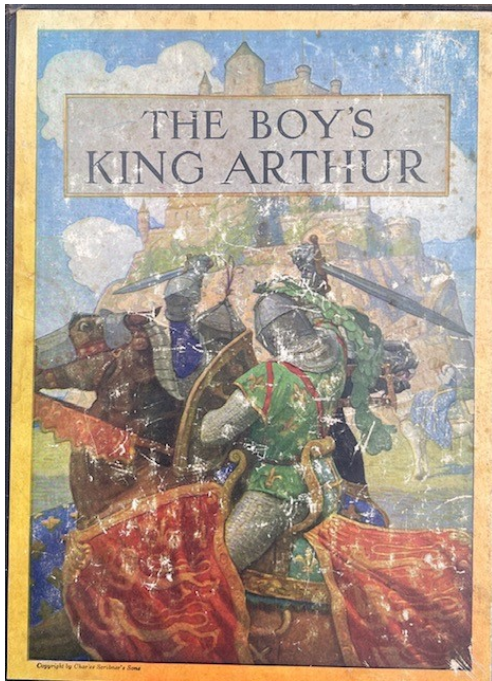
The little toy dog is covered with dust,  
But sturdy and stanch he stands;  
And the little toy soldier is red with rust,  
And his musket molds in his hands.  
Time was when the little toy dog was new  
And the soldier was passing fair,  
And that was the time when our Little Boy  
Blue  
Kissed them and put them there.

"Now, don't you go till I come," he said,  
"And don't you make any noise!"  
So toddling off to his trundle-bed  
He dreamed of the pretty toys.  
And as he was dreaming, an angel song  
Awakened our Little Boy Blue,—  
Oh, the years are many, the years are long,  
But the little toy friends are true.

Ay, faithful to Little Boy Blue they stand,  
Each in the same old place,  
Awaiting the touch of a little hand,  
The smile of a little face.  
And they wonder, as waiting these long years  
through,  
In the dust of that little chair,  
What has become of our Little Boy Blue  
Since he kissed them and put them there.



**Will Evans, Fairview**



On a 12x16 Pastelbord, underpainted with nupastels and alcohol, using a variety of pastels.

Although based on the British leader who defeated the Saxon invaders in the 6th Century, it's story can be traced back to Welsh folklore. My introduction was a Charles Scribner and Son's edition with illustrations by N C Wyeth.

The story had gallant knights, fair maidens, magic, battles between good and evil, a perfect summer read for a 9 year old boy.



*The Boy's King Arthur*

16 x 12



## TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are.



The reference that I have included for “Schoodic Night” is the familiar “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star” nursery rhyme from an old Mother Goose book that I still have. ... but there are a number of other children’s poems or songs exploring the mystique of the heavens that have stimulated my imagination over the years.

During my childhood, our family often traveled during the summer. And when we did, we camped in a tent in remote places where the night sky was teeming with stars.

I still enjoy being out at night where I can seek out the constellations and planets and

“wonder what they are.”

I painted on black Uart 800 with Terry Ludwig and Diane Townsend pastels, choosing nighttime colors from information that I explored in Adventure 4 of the first Adventure Series.



**MaryAnn Grib, Gray, TN**

*Remembering Thoreau* 9 x 6



This was an interesting one.

I don't have much recollection as a child about literature or books that inspired my creative side.

My creative side "came out" while I was in high school. I had an English teacher who taught outside the box and inspired our individuality in his class and fostered creativity.

I believe I connected to Thoreau the most at this point in time and his affinity with nature.

I really identified with this and that love of nature is what got my creativity going then and still to this day.

I decided that this scene would most closely capture that spirit.

It was done from a reference photo I took while plein air painting at Limestone Cove Park in Unicoi, TN. I still have some work to do on it but wanted to get this to you before the deadline. It is done on Uart 320 paper using Derwent ink blocks as an underpainting (first time using them) and using both hard and soft pastels. The title will be "Remembering Thoreau."

*The Lonely Burro*

11 x 14

on UART 500 grit



This is a painting of one of the burros that we owned when we lived in Michigan. His name was Taco and he was born on our farm to a Jenny that we adopted through the BLM's Adopt-a wild-burro program in 1980. One of my favorite childhood books was "Winnie-the-Pooh" and my all-time favorite character in the book was poor Eeyore, the droopy-eared burro.

Burros (or donkeys) are smart, very trainable and fun to be around. They will always greet you with a loud "HeeHaw" and they will let the whole neighborhood know when their supper is late!

Of all the animals that we had on the farm (and we had many!), the burros were my favorites. This painting is only about ½ done, but I wanted to get this to you for our latest challenge.



Here is an illustration of the original Eeyore by E. H. Shepard



**Toni Hutcheson, Pisgah Forest, NC**

*Wilber*

9 x 12



Since reading Charlotte's Web I've had an affinity for pigs. Here is my portrait of Wilbur as a baby.

Toni Hutcheson  
Sanded paper

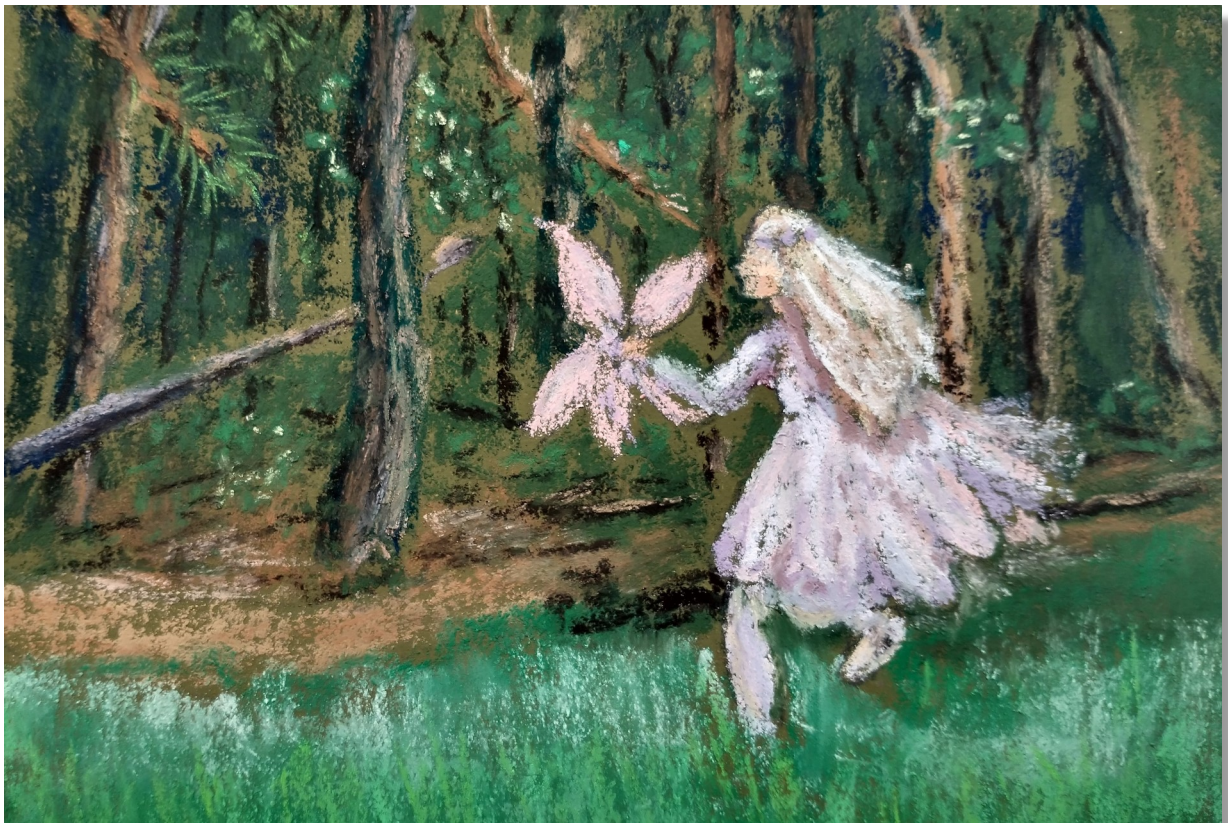


**Kathy Hutchinson, Rutherfordton, NC**

On Colorfix sanded olive green..

Actually this is not a memory from an old storybook but from a fairy themed Tea Party I hosted for my granddaughters and their friends. I have included a photo I took that day..

I have wanted to paint this for a while so thank you for giving me the opportunity to make it happen.



*Stolen Wings*

5 x 7

**Lynn Jackson**, Brevard, NC

*Too Much Noise!* 11 x 16

A childhood memory of a favorite folktale is Too Much Noise.

I chose it for my children to perform in a puppet show.

I used to teach puppetry to my children's classmates in the public schools. The puppets were made of papier-mâché. The kids loved to perform this folktale and I enjoyed seeing them as puppeteers.

The story is about an old man who couldn't sleep because his wife was snoring and his children were giggling. He went to the wise old woman who told him to bring in a different animal each night. He ended up with a house full of animals and couldn't sleep from all the noise they made.

He went to see the wise old woman and she told him to put the animals back to where they belonged and he would be able to sleep. He did and without all those noises, his wife's snoring and children's giggling were like music to his ears and he was able to sleep. So...be grateful for what you have, 'cause it always could be worst.



This was a fun Adventure. I tried to incorporate a sense of humor in my art and hope you enjoy it!

Papier-mâché puppets for Too Much Noise. They are over 25 years old. Grandkids love them!



**Karen Knaub, Lake Lure**

“The Secret Garden”

By Frances Hodgson Burnett

This was a tough challenge for me as I never felt that I was influenced by a book, poem or character. The Secret Garden is the only book that popped in my head. When I thought about it, it may have influenced me in that I feel everyone needs a safe place to visit even if it is just in your mind. A place where everything is OK, beautiful and perfect.

The hardest part of this painting for me was the path. I think I brushed it away 15 times. I finally had to declare it done.



*The Secret Garden*

12 x 16



**Cindy Lidd, Asheville**



*Zoo Swans*

*9 x 12*

Attached is my painting "Zoo Swans", size is 12 x 9 on 600 grade Uart.

This is from a photo that I took while I was interning in the Brookfield Zoo's bird department (a while ago..). I was feeding all of the water birds in their man-made pond.

This one was done fairly quickly and am not quite sure what to think of it.

**Margaret V Lyn-Soroken, Black Mountain**

*Woman Tongue Tree*

5 x 7



Medium: pastelbord with various pastels

There's a tree 'woman tongue tree' in Jamaica where I grew up...in the wind the seed pods shake hence the name...

This old, large tree stood on the edge of the school property....where I would sit on its protruding roots and daydream....

When I learned to read I read anancy and duppy stories...our local lore...I don't have a fav poem or story then.

Painting is impression in my mind...and trying out pastelbord.



## Meryl Meyer, Weaverville

I am recovering from shoulder surgery and doing nicely.

Hope you are enjoying the summer. I have attached 2 images that fit the theme of this adventure series. You may chose both or one.

*Dreamy Poppies*

6 x 8

Soft Pastel on violet  
Pastel mat paper



My parents were working too hard to read us bedtime stories but my older sister would make up stories and tell us them at bedtime. She was a wonderful story teller. We also loved Disney movies and Golden Books of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Cinderella.

My favorite childhood movie was “The Wizard of Oz.” It had everything. It was magical, funny, thrilling, scary and enchanting, and It even gave me some nightmares.

I loved the music, songs, and all the characters. I have probably seen it over 100 times. I still watch it to this day.

The scenery was magically beautiful. I was awed by the beauty of the poppy fields leading to the land of Oz.

This is a quick poppy field study. I would like to do more and maybe even add some snow just like in the movie.

I used violet Pastel mat and various soft pastels including Terry Ludwig and red Mount Vision Pastels.

Yes. There is no place like home.



**Meryl Meyer, Weaverville** (continued from page 20)

Soft Pastel on White Pastel mat

“I can take a cozy nap and snuggle with my cat..”

This is an illustration from my first children’s book that I recently self- published. I was very influenced by nursery rhymes in my childhood.

The entire book is a lyrical rhyming poem with paintings done in soft and hard pastel on white Pastel mat. It takes place around our mountain home

during wintertime and includes me as the 8 year old protagonist, my cat, and critters from our woodlands.

Thank you for this walk down memory lane.



*I Can Take a Cozy Nap...*

8 x 8

**Melissa Noll, Charlotte, NC**

*Remembering When a Big Wave Hit Us* 9 x 12

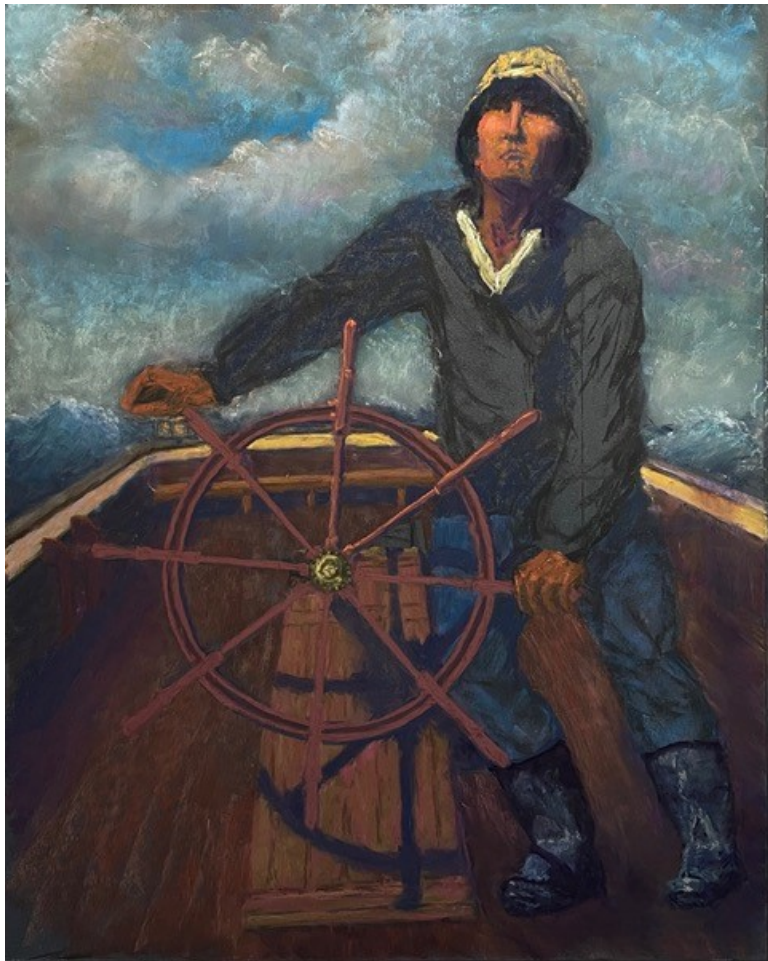


9x12 on U art.

Remembering family vacations as a child when we went to the shore.

Now we go to the beach 🏖️. Melissa





*They That Go Down to the Sea*

20 x 16

Assorted pastel brands

Uart 400 black paper

The painting is not finished

I grew up sailing on Lake Michigan. If you don't count "in the womb," the first time I was taken out sailing I was only 10 days old. Whether lake or ocean the feel of flying over the waves gets into your blood. My childhood was filled with sailing adventures, sometimes days without sight of land.

Like most sailing families there were books, and movies; *Two Years Before the Mast*, *Mutiny on the Bounty* with Captain Bly, and *Moby Dick* with the infamous Captain Ahab. I've been aboard the USS Constitution, and her sister ship the USS

Constellation. I dream of one day sailing on a tall ship.

My dad was a storyteller, so he would tell us stories of clipper ships, like Flying Cloud, schooners, sloops, and 12 meter racing boats in the America's Cup races.

I would sit at the helm with him as he taught me to sing sea shanties, and as I grew older I would be allowed to take the helm and sail the boat, and go on races.

My imagination would take me across the oceans, around the Horn, and through mighty storms at sea. The one thing that always triggered my imagination was a small replica, that my dad always kept on a bookshelf, of the Gloucester Fisherman's memorial. I didn't know it was a memorial, the darker side of the sea, but I always loved that statue. I got to see the real statue, and take photos, when my husband and I visited Gloucester, Massachusetts.

As I contemplated what I wanted to paint for this new adventure the words came to mind, "They that go down to the sea in ships," the inscription on the base of the statue, and I knew I had to attempt this painting.

## **Gary Rupp, Black Mountain**

I don't remember the name of the book, but the lead character was unforgettable. It was the story of a very cocky rooster (pardon the pun!) whose immense pride got him into all kinds of trouble.

About the same time I was introduced to this book, my grandpa took me to visit his chicken coop and I came face to face with a real live rooster who met me eye to eye (I was about four years old). The rooster made it very clear I was not wanted in his coop!

Fortunately, my grandpa made it clear to the rooster that he was not the big shot he thought himself to be. I learned a lot that day about how pride comes before a fall.

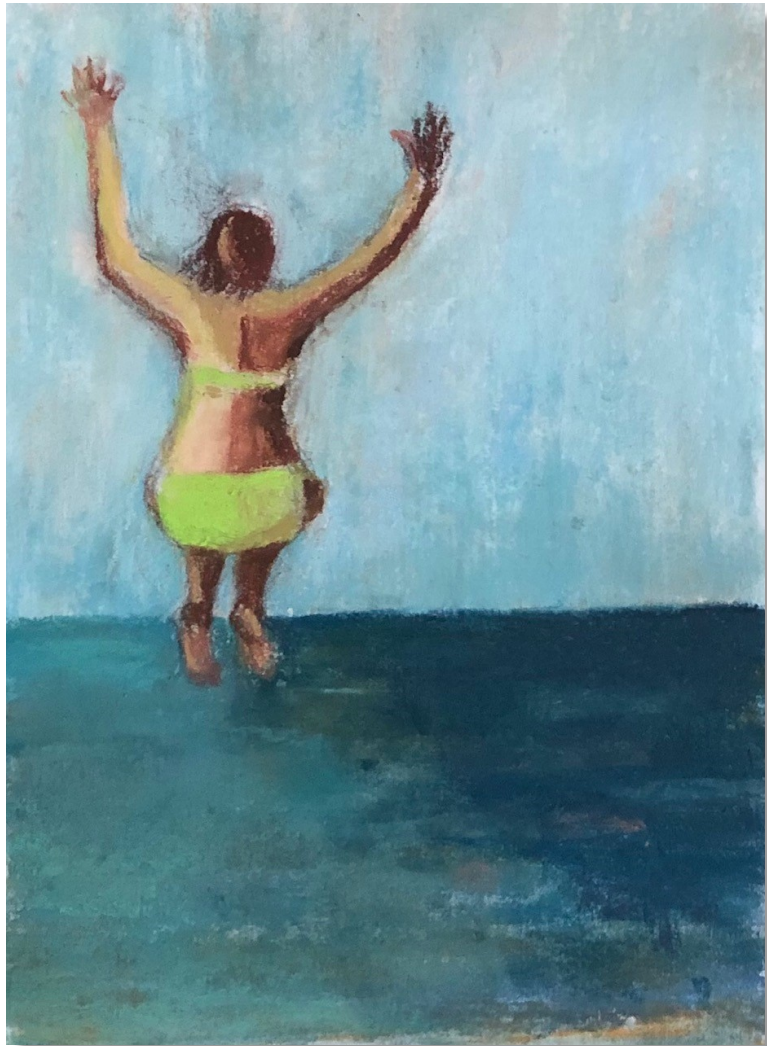
But then, every day with grandpa was a good day.



*Grandpa's Rooster*  
9 x 9



Lori Schaffert, Burnsville, NC



I just wanted to convey the joy that I found in the water as a child, and still enjoy today. I haven't been painting, which is quite evident here, but maybe there is one little positive to build on...

**Andrea Stutesman, Black Mountain**

Title: White Fang

Artist: Andrea Stutesman

Paper: UArt 400 12' x 9"

As a child, I hated to read. We were required to check out books in the library each week, but I would read a few pages and then turn them back in.

In sixth grade, my teacher knew I wasn't reading the books, but encouraged me to keep trying.

The first book that I read all the way through was *White Fang*.

I had found a genre that interested me and I kept on reading.

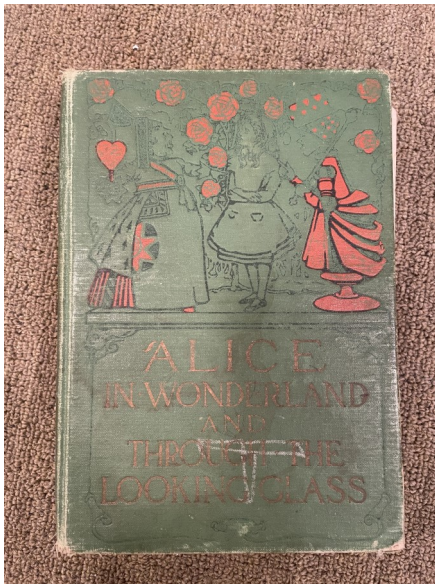


*White Fang*

9 x 12

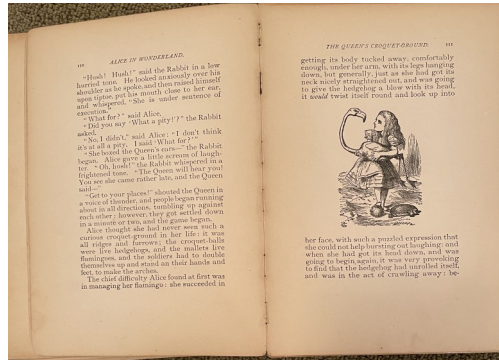


Donna Tweedle, Leesburg, FL



This Alice in Wonderland and through the looking glass Book belonged to my grandmother as far as I remember. It is surely a first edition because there is no date in the front of it.

I was trying to be exact with the reproduction from the book and then do something a little more contemporary for Alice.



*Alice as She Was*

5 x 4



*Alice as She Could Be*

9 x 9







*Fun in the Trees*

5 x 3

Ampersand Gessobord 3"x5" Caran D' Ache water soluble oil pastels. "Fun in the Trees".

I just bought these oil pastels and wanted to try them. They were fun and easy to use, once I watched a few videos on how to use them.

This tree house was built by my father when I was in elementary school in Bloomington, MN. We lived on Nine Mile Creek. I spent many hours in this tree reading my favorite books on adventure.

*Editor's note. An exception was made for this painting. Since oil pastels are not considered soft pastels, they are not usually accepted in this or other "pastel" shows.*



## Sawyer Bear Whitemiller, Cape Coral, FL

*Hours Ago Hedwig*

9 x 7



I read the Harry Potter book series about three years ago, and I still love it.

One of my favorite characters is Hedwig, the owl. I love animals, and this is my favorite animal ever in Harry Potter.

First, I created a wet alcohol wash underpainting.

Then I used white and light grey to develop the body of the owl.

Next, I painted the eyes, head, and beak.

Finally, I added details to the wings and background.

I loved doing this Adventure! I have never painted an owl before, but it was really fun and reminds me of the magic of Harry Potter.

Much appreciation to all who participated and shared their paintings  
and their memories!