



Steve Myles

I first started painting while in college, but took an extended hiatus while I raised a family and pursued a career in industry. I picked up the brushes again several years ago. Although my degree in Chemical Engineering and my MBA may be a unique education for an artist, I remind myself that Leonardo Da Vinci was an engineer as well as a formidable artist. I think that engineering and art are complementary.

I have painted predominantly landscapes in oil over the past several years and have taken various painting and drawing courses with some very excellent instructors at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Several of my landscapes have been accepted in juried shows including The Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, Virginia (Aug '09, Aug '11), the Young at Art Show in Alexandria (Oct '09) and the Treasury of Art Show in Vienna, Virginia (Nov '09, Nov '10, Nov '11, Nov '12), the Rittenhouse Fine Art Show in Philadelphia (Sept' 10), the Springfield Art Guild (Oct '12) and the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston (May '11). I have also been invited to show work at the Oatlands Plantation in Leesburg and at the Burwell Morgan Mill Art Show in 2012 and 2013.

Some of my work is done en plein aire, and finished with work in the studio. Other works are based on photographic models, which I manipulate during the painting process striving to set a mood or feeling of the scene. Painting is an all consuming and at times spiritual experience for me. To look at a scene and recreate it on canvas requires my complete immersion in the moment and the image. I strive to paint what I see and to see clearly and honestly taking care to capture the interplay of light, and the juxtaposition of colors. Painting allows me to view our world with more appreciative eyes and wonder and although these works are my way of seeing nature, I hope they evoke an emotion, a memory, or a connection to something personal for the viewer. In that way, we can share the experience.

I have also been studying pencil drawing as an extension of painting to hone my eye to the microcosm rather than the larger vista landscapes. I have done a number of portraits and drawings from life and from photographs of people and animals. There is an ease to working in pencil rather than in oil....frankly the convenience of being able to start and stop easily. I like being able to sit down, for an hour or so, and create an image without worry of solvents, paint, and cleaning brushes. Learning to create drawings with only a variation in value should translate to more depth and shading nuances in my painting.

While I strive to bring my talents as an artist, the critical eye of an engineer, and a full rich life of experience to my artwork, I still approach each new canvas as a challenge and a fresh beginning.