

Nora Bushong Larimer

2022

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Nora Bushong Larimer, of Buena Vista, CO grew up in a farming community in Illinois. She studied Fine Art at Illinois State University and Principia College in Illinois. A professional artist since 1976, she spent many years traveling and doing outdoor art shows and festivals. Nora has also done professional picture framing since 1981. For 30 years she taught watercolor classes on location and from her various studio-galleries, in addition to being a watercolor and oil painting instructor at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, IL.

Best known for her watercolors, she has spent time painting on location all over the U.S. from rural and coastal Maine, to the forests of Pennsylvania, the Amish Farms of Ohio, to Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico, as well as abroad in Italy, S. E. Asia, Mexico, and Belize, C.A. This broad experience has helped to shape her bold, fresh watercolors and oils of natural landscapes, florals, and fish.

Nationally recognized, Nora has won numerous awards at juried shows and festivals throughout the U.S. Some highlights include: Signature member of Texas Watercolor Society and the Missouri Watercolor Society, and an Associate member the National Watercolor Society

2021- Honorable Mention for watermedia PAPNM National Juried Show

2020- 2nd place for Quick Draw in Santa Fe Plein Air Festival

2019- Honorable Mention Fairplay Plein Air Festival

2018-19 Best in Show for Watercolor and First in Oils for the Chaffee County Council on the Arts Annual Show

2018- Honorable Mention for the Santa Fe Plein Air Festival

2017- 2 blue ribbons in the Fairplay Plein Air Festival

2017- Published on the cover of Southern Trout Magazine

2016- 1st in Watercolor, Chaffee county Council on the Arts awards show

2015- Acceptance in the National Watercolor Society's Annual juried Exhibition

2014- 2nd place, Quick Draw, Moab Plein Air, also Honorable Mention, Moab, UT

2014- 2nd place for oil painting and the Tony Evan's Award for best Watercolor, CCCA Awards Show

2012-17- Published 4 times in Gray's Sporting Journal, including the cover

2012 and 2013-1st place for watercolor, Chaffee County Council on the Arts awards show

2011- Three trout paintings selected by Patagonia, Inc to be on shirts.

2010- Included in The Best of American Watermedia put out by Kennedy Publishing

2008- Best in show for the Colorado Mountain Plein Air Festival

*** A reproduction of one of her floral pieces included in 1800 Home Depot stores as a window covering 2006-2010.

*** President of the Chaffee County Council on the Arts 2011-2015

*** Her paintings are in hundreds of private collections across the United States.

*** Represented by her own Rock Run Gallery, Buena Vista, CO

Artist's Statement

While painting, my goal is to depict the essence of an idea but not to copy it. Strong color is used, too, and sometimes those colors are not realistic to the viewer not willing to stretch their imagination. My hope is to help the viewer to see the world around with "new eyes" - to see purple in the water and trees, when they normally wouldn't; to connect to their surroundings in a new way or to visually go somewhere new. Sometimes, by stirring up a memory, it takes them someplace in the past. While my flowers take careful planning, the landscapes and fish are done with a more direct and spontaneous energy.