



Steve Myles

I first started painting while in college, but took a 33 year hiatus while I raised a family and pursued a career in industry. I picked up the brushes again four 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 paint predominantly landscapes in oil several of which have been accepted in juried shows including The Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, Virginia (Aug '09), the Young at Art Show in Alexandria (Oct. '09) and the Treasury of Art Show in Vienna, Virginia (Nov.'09) and the Rittenhouse Fine Art Show in Philadelphia. Some of the work is done plein aire, supplemented by 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 recently begun studying pencil drawing as an extension of painting honing my eye to the microcosm rather than the larger vista landscapes. The collection includes a number of portraits and drawings from life and from photographs. 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 value variation should translate to more depth and shading nuances in my painting.

While I 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.