

Winter 2011
Volume 1, Issue 2

Lynn Ferris NWS, FWS

❖ watercolors ❖

Winter Workshops

- The Villages, FL
February 14 & 15
"Landscape in Watercolor"
352/430-0976
- The Villages, FL
February 16 & 17
"Painting Water in Watercolor"
352/430-0976
- Museum of Florida Art
DeLand, FL
February 19 & 20
"Bringing the Figure to Life"
(enrollment filled)

Spring workshops

- Citrus Watercolor Club,
Inverness, FL
April 9 & 10
(enrollment filled)
- Hot Springs, Arkansas
June 6 - 10
HotSpringsGallery.com

Spring Demos

- April 8
Citrus Watercolor Club
Inverness, FL
- May 25
Valley Art Association
Hagerstown, MD

Winter Shows

- January 29 & 30
"Images"
New Smyrna Beach, FL
- February 5 & 6
Mt. Dora Art Festival
Mt. Dora, FL



"First Seating "

Hello Friends...

Winter is here and I've made my yearly move to Florida for the season. Although it's been colder than usual down here so far, I can't complain, particularly to folks up north who are shoveling out of another snowstorm.

Lots of "good stuff" has been happening artwork wise.

I just received notice that my painting "First Seating" has been accepted into the AWS exhibit in New York. This is the same painting

that got an award at this years FWS exhibit. I'm busy painting for two solo shows later this season, one in Williamsburg, VA, and the other in Columbia, MD. I am especially excited about the Williamsburg show, as it opens just before my daughter graduates from The College of William and Mary, also in Williamsburg. I know it's clichéd, but boy has the time gone quickly. It doesn't seem that long ago I was waking her before

dawn, putting her in my van, then making her a "nest" behind my booth at the art festivals. I must admit, not only was she (mostly) a really good sport, but she was a pretty good sales person too. Ah, those were the days!

A reminder: if you've received this newsletter, and would rather not, let me know, via email; ferrislynn@yahoo.com and I'll gladly take you off my list.

Workshop adventures...

I will be traveling this summer to teach in some fun "resort" places. In June I'll be in Hot Springs Arkansas. It's a small setting with a limited enrollment, so I will be able to give lots of personal attention to everyone.

Later in the summer (Aug 28- Sept 2), I'll be at Dillman's Creative Arts Foundation in LacDuFlambeau, WI. I've not been there, but I've seen photos and it's a beautiful lake setting. Also, I will be teaching a

weekend class for Jerry's Artarama in July in Raleigh, NC. If you, like me, are in Florida for the winter, I still have a couple of places open for the two day "Landscape" and two day "Water" workshops in the Villages.

Winter Shows

- February 26 & 27
Old Island Days
Key West, FL
- March 5 & 6
Leesburg Art Festival
Leesburg, FL
- March 11, 12, & 13
Under the Oaks
Vero Beach, FL

What went wrong?

Sometimes, even a well planned, well composed painting "won't work" because of easily solved technical problems.... Here are a few of the more common ones:

Tentative brushstrokes:
Have confidence! Short "choppy" brushstrokes will always give an amateurish look. Better to have a confident look, even if the accuracy is a little off.

Layers that don't layer properly:
Are your colors transparent

or opaque? Transparent colors layer best.

Are your colors staining? Staining colors work best, as they won't lift when another layer is put on top.

Are you thoroughly drying between layers?

Are you trying to lighten a too dark value by putting a lighter one on top of it? This never works.

Drybrush should not look like toothpaste:

Drybrush technique should accentuate or define the

texture, but not draw attention to itself. It should not be heavy handed or out of character with the feel of the painting. It accentuates, not defines the form.

Correcting spots, splotches, etc.:

Often it is better to simply leave these things alone and live with the imperfection. Otherwise, a small spot can turn into a large scar.

Ice skating blindfolded...

One of the reasons watercolor is such a compelling medium is its ability to surprise. You make a plan, assume it will work, and then somehow find yourself in the midst of changing circumstances that can feel unnerving. Your plan must be adapted quickly. Other times, an instructor will tell you to "have faith" even though you aren't sure of the outcome.

I call these times "ice skating blindfolded" because that is exactly what they feel like. When you find yourself outside of your comfort zone, don't panic, know instead that your painting skills are going to grow. And remember after all...it's only a piece of paper.

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Happy Painting!!!!