

JEAN PERRY

STATEMENT

"I have always wanted to paint and draw and was fortunate enough to begin my studies at age 5 with Saturday lessons at the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City. I continued summer art classes until I began college at the University of Colorado. It was at this time in my life that I began painting abstract, non-objective work. I continued this style and some sporadic lessons through the early years of marriage and raising four children.

Sometime after moving to Steamboat Springs, CO, in 1980, I decided to make a commitment to my love of art. I knew that I didn't want to stay with abstract expressionism. I signed up for a plein-air workshop at a dude ranch near Steamboat. The experience was life-changing. Using oils, we painted on location every day even in a rain-sleet storm. The fun and excitement of being there, painting nature as it is, was the beginning of my painting career.

Today I still insist that my paintings must come from personal experience. I have no desire to paint historical pictures of someone else's life. My goal is to simplify the large masses and arrange them in a good design using the light, colors and values. I want to communicate the emotions I am feeling about that particular place and time. I want to do all of this with the least amount of strokes and detail that is necessary to tell my story. Landscapes seem to dominate my work but I also enjoy painting animals, still life and portraits. I am drawn to water and the changing effects of the reflections on water.

One great advantage to painting en plein air is that you can travel the world, and with each new experience you are ready with your trusty French easel to record these experiences. My early training as an abstract artist has helped me understand the abstract quality of all good paintings and how important this is to the composition. When I go out on location I am looking for the design that the light is making on the water, the trees, the mountain or the buildings. My challenge is to capture that single moment when the light and shadow are special and relate this feeling in my painting. The subject matter is usually secondary to what my painting is about. Since this combination of natural forces doesn't stand still like a photograph waiting for me to paint it, I must proceed with a certain amount of speed. But it is this very immediacy that seems to help the process. Painting on location gives me confidence in my ability to "see," to be able to judge what colors, values and shapes are out there. This leads to a freedom to let the painting process flow to completion with a freshness that is not found in working from photos. Back in my studio I will use some of these small paintings as field studies to make larger paintings."

Expressing a fleeting moment in time with the use of light and shadow, Jean Perry's paintings are a chronicle of the environment that surrounds her. Since her years as a Fine Arts Major at the University of Colorado, Jean's style of painting has evolved from abstract, non-representational work to a loose, expressive style that blends impressionism and realism. The subject matter is usually Colorado and Arizona landscapes. Jean relies on outdoor, on location painting whether she is traveling abroad as a member of the Plein Air Painters of America or here in her native Colorado. Jean, also is a member of the Oil Painters of America and has won numerous awards.

JEAN PERRY

PERSONAL: Born, 1935 Denver, CO

EDUCATION:

1984 Scottsdale Artists School Scottsdale, AZ
1976 University of Denver Denver, CO
1960-59 El Camino Junior College Los Angeles, CA
1955-53 University of Colorado Boulder, CO

SELECTED PUBLIC & PRIVATE COMMISSIONS:

2000 Grand Summit Hotel, Steamboat Springs, CO
1999 Routt Memorial Hospital, Steamboat Springs, CO
1980 Strings in the Mountains (poster)
1989 St. Johns Hospice, Lakewood, CO

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2001 Northern Trust Bank, Tucson, AZ
2000 Two Rivers Gallery, Steamboat Springs, CO
1999 Steamboat Arts Council, Steamboat Springs, CO
1998 Smith-Klein Gallery, Boulder, CO

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2003-1987 Plein Air Painters of America, Avalon, Catalina Island, CA
2003 Glories of the Sonoran Desert, Desert Caballeros Museum, Wickenburg, AZ
The Allure of Light, The Depot, Steamboat Springs, CO
Tucson Plein Air Painters, Sonoran Desert Museum, Tucson, AZ
Plein Air from Coast to Coast, Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme, CT
2001 El Presidio Gallery, Tucson, AZ
1999 Laguna Beach Plein Air Invitational Laguna Beach, CA
Plein Air Tucson Show Tucson, AZ
Mountain Oyster Club Annual Show Tucson, AZ
Settlers West Miniature Show, Tucson, AZ
1998 American Academy of Women Artists, Desert Caballeros Museum, Wickenburg, AZ
1997 American Academy of Women Artists, Clymer Museum, Ellensburg, WA
1996 Arts For The Parks Top 200, Jackson Hole, WY
Landscapes West, Foothills Art Center, Golden, CO
1994 Arts For The Parks Top 100, Jackson Hole Oil Painters of America, San Antonio, TX
Best & Brightest Show Scottsdale Artist School Scottsdale, AZ
1993 Cheyenne Frontier Days, Old West Museum Show, Cheyenne, WY
Oil Painters of America Show, Chicago, IL
1992 Strokes of Genius Show, Scottsdale Artists School Scottsdale, AZ
1991 Best of the Sangre de Cristos, Westcliffe Centre for the Arts, Westcliffe, CO
Junior Symphony Guild Designer Showhouse, Denver, CO
1989 Cancer League of Colorado Art Benefit, Denver, CO
1989, 88, 83 Summerart Show, Steamboat Arts Council Steamboat Springs, CO
1988 Salmagundi Club Annual non-Member Show, New York, NY
1988 Colorado Springs Art Guild National Juried Show, Colorado Springs, CO
1988 Wichita Art Association, National Small Oil Painting Exhibition, Wichita, KS

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2003, 2000, 1997 Plein-Air Painters of America Workshops, Old Lyme, CT; Wickenburg, AZ;
Steamboat Springs, CO, & Bennington, VT
1999 Plein Air Workshop, Tucson, AZ
1997-96 Plein Air Workshops, Steamboat Springs, CO
1995 Art Students League of Denver, Denver, CO
Steamboat Springs Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs, CO

HONORS & AWARDS:

1999 Best Desert Landscape, Plein Air Tucson Show
1994 Award of Excellence, Oil Painters of America
1993 Gamblin Award, Oil Painters of America Show
1992 Holbein Award, Strokes of Genius Show
1989, 88, 83 Best of Show, Surrnerart Show, Steamboat Arts Council
1988 Juror's & Merit Award, Colorado Springs Art Guild National Juried Show

AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS:

1999 "Staging a Landscape," The Artist's Magazine, September

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1997 Nancy Ellis, "Hitting Her Stride," Art of the West, March/April
1994 Nancy Jarchow, Feature Article, Steamboat Magazine, Winter
1993 Jane Hume, "Jean Perry Meets Goals," Northwest Colorado Press, July

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Routt Memorial Hospital
Steamboat Arts Council

NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Signature Member, Plein-Air Painters of America
Signature Member, Oil Painters of America
Signature Member, Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters
Honorary Member, Tucson Plein Air Painters Society

