

Tom Hart's Watercolors



Watercolor painting began for me at the Tallahassee Senior Center, when I retired in 2005. Mary Alice Hunt and Adeline Wilkes had been telling me about the fun they were having, painting on Tuesday Mornings. I soon joined the group and met other retirees who were having fun talking and painting together. The Tallahassee Senior Center also has several watercolor exhibits during the year. After a year of painting I began to receive help from fellow painters including Bill McKeown (prominent local and regional painter from North of Quincy) concerning important issues for structural details. I was painting a picture of my wife in front of the Parthenon and he took a ruler to my painting and showed me that the lintel wavered up and down. Yes, the structure is nearly a ruin, but the basic structural details are level and straight. Thanks goodness I was dealing with watercolor. I soon learned how to take off paint carefully without ruining the surface of the paper.

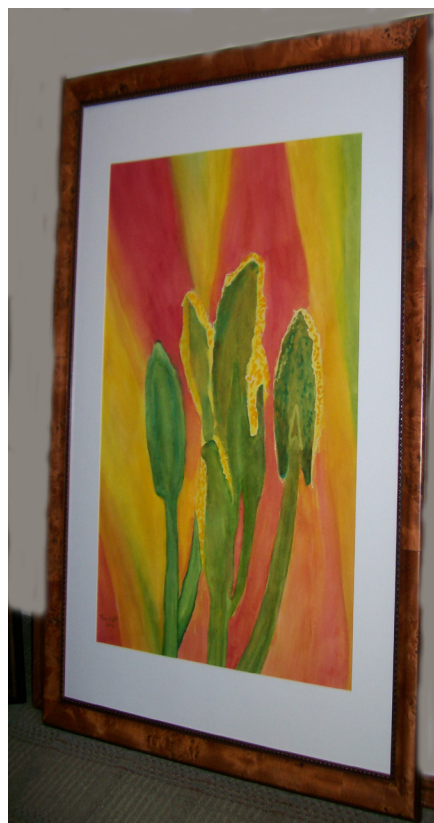


I soon began entering exhibits and enjoying others paintings, but never won a ribbon until I entered “Dignity” in 2011 and won third place. A special feature of Senior Center Art Exhibits is their Friday night reception. At that reception attendees are asked to vote for their favorite artwork. I have received a few “People’s Choice” awards over the years and appreciate them.

Another outlet for exhibiting works of art is the FSU Medical School. I began exhibiting there in 2007. They have a Fall and Spring exhibit.

In addition to our painting sessions on Tuesday, we regularly go to lunch together. We also make trips to other painter’s homes and one of those visits was to a home in Westminster Oaks. Our host had a special large painting of a portion of a daylily and helped inspire my three picture daylily series.

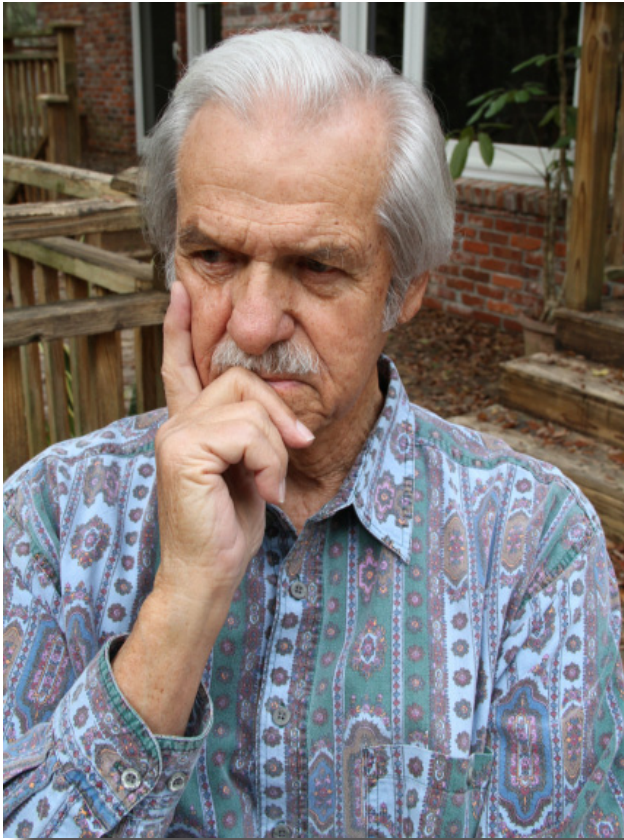




The above pictures are a series of daylilies emphasizing their anthers

We have a wonderful instructor, Linda Pelc who constantly challenges us to use new techniques. Recently several of us have been using a special pouring technique using interior house paint for our basic painting and mixing traditional watercolors with them. Below is my first attempt.





I enjoy painting people, so I asked if I could photograph Cal Zongker. He not only said, “yes,” but even let me use his camera which is very special. I takes perfect photographs multiple times with each attempt. I soon had over 100 poses of Cal from which to select. We agreed that this pose is what he wanted for himself, so I went right to work. I had no trouble with the face and hands, but the shirt is very complicated to paint. I tried a red version, but it didn’t look right. Below is the final product I gave Cal & Rose to display at home.

This photograph is the final product, proudly displayed in the Zongker home. I paint portraits for a fee. Please contact me at thart@fsu.edu or phone me at 385-7550 to set-up an appointment to discuss the type of portrait you would like to have painted so I can determine the fee.



Currently, I am painting this view of Cal.

