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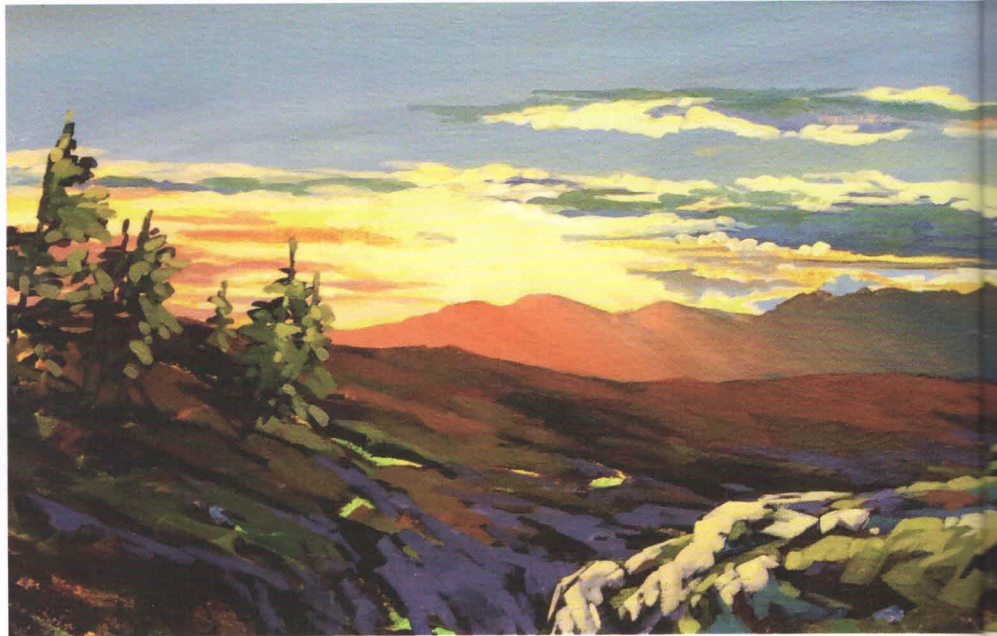
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Create

# an inspired journey



Suzanne Sandboe

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*Artist*

# through medium & time



I remember the shaded afternoon light playing off the brass ferrule of a brush; the almost dusty grain of the wood handle as I picked it up; the gradual caress of the bristles between my fingers, softly sighing as they straightened to a perfect point again. The linen texture of paper, and the clean canvas it offered my mind.









My journey as a professional artist started a long time ago. I was only beginning to find my voice in creativity, discovering the beauty that lay in paint and colour, a language spoken with my hands. In the little art supply store in town, I would carefully spend my hard-earned change on paint, paper, pencils. I would use these tools to capture the country I grew up in. Our Canadian nature, the farmland and surrounding landscape, the lakes and mountains from camping expeditions taken with my Mom and Dad as I grew. These places have always been dear to my heart and a great source of inspiration over the years since that day I picked up my first brush.

When I was young, I discovered Michelangelo. I made great studies of his work as I learned, and in perhaps one of the greatest highlights of my artistic career, I travelled with my husband Eddie to Italy in celebration

of our forty years of marriage. There I finally visited my old mentor Michelangelo, witnessing first-hand so many of his great works and the incredible history that country has to offer. He was not the only influence in my formative years; Jim Adrain, Robert Guest, and Euphemia McNaught were all great friends and colleagues of mine.

My very first watercolour workshop was with Jim Adrain, where I was first inspired and have since spent the last thirty years honing my skills as a professional watercolourist. With Robert Guest, I studied drawing and oil painting. In addition, it was my great joy to be a member of the Peace Watercolour Society for over twenty-five years, including the years when the original founding members were active. This included Euphemia McNaught, who herself studied with the Group of Seven. We spent many great times in





workshops, meetings, and putting together shows held throughout the Peace Country.

In 2009, I was introduced to acrylic via a workshop under the tutelage of Mike Svob, a very well known professional Canadian artist. In 2014, I travelled to Paris and the South of France on a Plein Air painting trip with Mike and a group of Canadian painters. Two amazing weeks were spent first touring Paris, and then painting in the South of France at Arles, Provence and Grignan, where we followed in the footsteps of the masters among this historical and inspiring culture with its love and passion for art -greatly influencing the style and subject matter I now use and paint. Currently, I am painting many acrylics, but still do watercolours, as well. I find they feed well off of each other, and there is

influence from of the years of watercolour works in my acrylics with lovely washes and layers of transparent acrylic mixed alongside opaque paint, giving a delicious sense of the versatility of the medium.

Over the last thirty years, my work has gone from the quiet kitchen table of a self-taught artist to public shows and galleries. From the beginning, offering heart-warming local scenery and now sharing the rich history of the east and west coasts throughout Western Canadian galleries. These partnerships have propelled me as an artist and it has been my privilege to share the beauty of the world with others as I see it. I have moved on from that quiet kitchen table to a new two-storey studio, providing me with the space to do larger pieces and a dedicated space to work from.





I continue to create, and art surrounds me all the time. I express my art using light and colour and endeavour to tell a story, bringing the viewer into the painting, taking them not only to another place but also to another time, presenting not only a scene, but also a memory. My style would probably be best described as atmospheric and nostalgic, yet grounded in realism. Landscape is the primary subject matter and often includes objects in the environment. I paint what I see. Most important to me, I paint with intuition. I follow my instincts about what I will paint and how I will paint it.

I am grateful to family, friends and the surrounding communities that have supported my endeavours all these years. I am most grateful to my husband and two sons who have allowed me the time to pursue my artistic side. It has been my great pleasure to have our boys join me at times on various projects, Devon an artist and Loren a writer. Watching them grow and learn to use their skills in their own way has been my greatest joy, and takes me back to that very moment I first picked up my own brush, to that moment where we discover ourselves for the very first time.