



Madelaine Dukes

A South Carolina native and Charleston area resident, Madeline Dukes studied studio art and political science at Winthrop University. Dukes' work has been selected for several juried group and solo shows at museums and cultural centers in North and South Carolina, including the Etherredge Center gallery at University of South Carolina-Aiken, Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Juried Art Exhibition, Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, the Spartanburg Museum of Art, Lincoln County Museum, Sumter Museum of Art, McElvey Center, Mooresville Art Center, Pickens County Museum, the Rauch Gallery at Gaston College, and a traveling show with the South Carolina State Museum. Her work has also been featured in *Fine Art Connoisseur* and can be found in private and corporate collections throughout the U.S. including the new ACE Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Landscapes, "nature portraits," and the figure are the subjects of her paintings. Although Dukes completes most work within her studio, she does employ an interactive process of observation in nature to capture color, form, and, most importantly, light. For her, this is where the painting begins – outside or from the live model. A connection with the subject must happen. Once this connection is made, she sketches, paints, photographs, and makes notes of her experiences. While some work is completed on location, she usually brings these observations into the "indoor" studio.

"I approach each painting as a portrait and am fascinated by the movement and relationships between the subject and its environment. Nothing is still. Something dynamic is always going on between the two and I want to communicate that as well as capture the personality of the subject, the day, and the light. Nature always provides the inspiration.

I work mostly in oils and oil sticks. My brush work ranges from thick to thin on any given painting and I will layer, scratch, scrape, and make marks to portray the energy and atmosphere of the subject. My goals are to "construct" with the paint while pushing both the paint and the imagery.

During the painting process I incorporate a method of painting intuitively while stepping back and resolving any technical issues along the way. A kind of synchronization occurs while I work. This method of painting ultimately gets me to the place I want to be. It is here that I know I am producing my most interesting work. This is the balance I enjoy and this is how I paint."



Sheryl Stalnaker

"My landscape paintings are inspired by the unspoiled places, which can be hard to find. I am mesmerized by interesting cloud formations, the light hitting a wave, or colors reflecting. I immerse myself in the landscape, gathering artistic inspiration while boating to remote areas, kayaking, surfing, or hiking in the mountains. I strive to pull the viewer into participation with the scene, such as feeling the tranquility of a still morning or the rolling of waves in the sea. My still life and other low country scenes incorporate texture and light to make the paintings have energy and visual interest."

Capturing the feeling and energy of a scene in her paintings, Sheryl often starts a painting on location and studies her subject from life, rather than working only from photographs, which gives her the feeling she wants to convey in her work. She builds up layers of paint using a brush and palette knife, both adding paint and scraping away. This adds depth and an interesting textural element to her work. From a distance, the viewer is pulled into the painting, but when viewed closer, Sheryl's work is impressionistic and even abstracted in places. Her work conveys a mood and not just a representation of the scene. She has taught private and small group painting classes and workshops for years and enjoys sharing her passion for art both through her own painting and through inspiring others.