

July 1, 2001 Issue

Contests And Awards



July is HOT! The weather can be sweltering! In some places an oven of heat can reach triple digits. Some where, humidity makes the heat feel like you are breathing steam. But that is not the kind of hot I was thinking of.

July brings hot new ideas for vacation spots. Camping at the hottest new mountain campground or the cool refreshing ocean beaches is HOT! It is exciting to wear that hot new outfit at your neighborhood bar-b-que. Family and friends get together to discuss the hot new topics.

So, July is HOT! But the hottest thing for me is the 5th of the 7th month in the year 2001. That is my 60th birthday. I am looking forward eagerly to enjoying HOT July and the rest my sixth decade with hot ideas for new paintings, and trying the newest internet marketing concepts. I will also be taking time to play with my grandchildren and to enjoy the company of dear friends I plan to spend hot days in the cool shade of my yard with pastels, watercolors, gouache and time to paint, paint, PAINT!

Next issue: Driving the back roads

I entered my first art contest at age ten. I lived in a small town in Wisconsin. The local newspaper held a poster contest for (then) Washington's birthday. All the local grade school children were invited to draw or paint an entry representing our first president. I had just learned that Betsy Ross had been chosen to sew the new nation's flag. My entry would be Betsy Ross sitting with needle in hand, fabric draped over her lap, with George Washington standing behind her. So I began with the help of my mentor, my Mom. Much labor and erasing and patience paid off. My drawing won the first prize. It was 50 cents. The drawing was hung in the window of the newspaper office for the whole month of February.

"My drawing won the first prize"

It is a fact that entering juried shows aids in the artist's "growth". So, as an adult, I began to grow as an artist. There is no lack of opportunity in this area for the willing artist. Juried and judged contests can be entered by submitting slides of the artwork or the work itself. I preferred to stay within the geographical bounds of my area, and submit the original work rather than slides. The work is either then accepted to hang in the show, or rejected for any of a number of reasons at the discretion of the adjudicator. Rejection slips are character building, encouraging one to try harder to perfect ones craft. Awards are

even stronger motivation. I have received ribbons, medals, trophies and cash awards. (I have also collected my share of rejection slips.)

"My style of judging is to look for the solid basics"

As my character and knowledge grew, I began to be asked to serve as juror for regional art shows. This honor called upon all my reserves of experience and knowledge accumulated through years of painting, teaching and learning. My style of judging is to look for the solid basics: form, composition, design, perspective and tonal values, no matter whether the art is abstract, impressionistic, or realistic, paintings or sculptures. I have also judged photograph competitions using those same criteria. All together, these have been exceptionally rewarding times.

What is next for us in the realm of contests and awards? I believe contests/competitions will no longer require slides only, but will take advantage of technology and allow entries to be submitted via the internet. Also, I am available and open to requests to be an adjudicator on the national and

international level.

Featured Artwork

A Time Away (pastel)



"A tropical island sunset burns the sky and sea. The sand is warm and the tall palms gently sway in the soft evening breeze."

Sunset Hawaiian (Oil)



"As the sun sets on a perfect day of flying, you take a few final sweeps across the sky, challenging the brilliant sunset to compete with the stunning colors of your 'Hawaiian Team' kite."

Perfect Moment (Watercolor)



"This rose is called 'Perfect Moment' and it is not difficult to see why. The blossom is full and bright and seems poised to fill the morning air with sweet perfume at the perfect moment."