

July 1, 2002 Issue

Hurrah! for the Red, White and Blue



Local and national issues are weighing heavily on my mind at this time. I want to draw within myself and hope all the things that are so disturbing to my fellow countrymen will just go away. However, I am concerned for our firefighters so valiantly putting their lives on the line to battle forest fires in remote locations. I grieve for lives lost. I pray for souls who are deeply disturbed. I also rejoice in this wonderful country, America. When it seems that evil lurks around each bend, I see good triumph. When someone decries how our children will turn out, I read of bright young minds and selfless youths giving of themselves for someone else. Older Americans are living exemplary lives of decency and honesty. People who genuinely care about others are quietly doing small deeds that grow into mountains of hope and promise. As I reach forward to contemplate the upcoming Independence Day holiday, I look back over the past sixty plus years I have been here, and say, Thank you, God, for this land of the free and the home of the bravest of the brave.

Next Issue: Leaving an Impression (ism)

As an artist, I am always looking for color combinations that are exciting. Nature continually inspires me. I am enchanted by the wonderful ways colors merge into each other or contrast one another. Spring sunrises and sunsets glow with gold and red and purple in hauntingly soft mists or starkly etched brilliance. Autumn leaves burnish the hillsides with tones of bronze, yellow and orange, as well as reds and deep purples and more. Bright blue summer skies with billowing vivid white clouds never fail to delight me. When the deep snows of winter blanket the whole world under sparkling pure white, I gaze with awe. Do you see where I am going with this? My favorite color combination is red, white, and blue.

"I am glad the founding fathers picked red, white and blue!"

The makers of the American flag must have shared this same feeling. Of course, we know the story of the thirteen stripes in alternating red and white, and the field of blue with a circle of thirteen white stars. I am glad the founding fathers picked red, white and blue! Since September 11th, The patriotic displays of our nation's flag have manifested in traditional as well as uniquely original ways. Rural mailboxes proudly show off stars and stripes, American flags ride atop trucks, vans, cars, bicycles and skateboards. In the harbor of Trinidad, California, there are three small boats lined up in order of red, white and blue. A great subject to paint, that I might have set up myself! I recently purchased some strands of lights to use to decorate for Independence Day. (What colors? Of course, red, white and blue.)

I am delighted that these colors repeat so frequently in nature. Almost by accident, this year in my garden, a

red rose is blooming alongside a white dahlia, with lacy blue larkspur weaving intimately between. In concrete bowls, I have planted petunias in those three colors. For the 4th of July, I will place small flags in the bowls. As I look around my garden, I am inspired by the different flowers that carry the theme. I have a white hydrangea and one that is blue. Besides the roses, there are different shades of red in the geraniums, dahlias and sweet williamses. Tall blue bachelor buttons are nodding amidst graceful double red poppies. I have a wealth of subjects to paint in this special combination.

"I have a wealth of subjects to paint in this special combination."

For some time now, I have painted kite flying scenes and lighthouses that include the flag. My desire is to do a painting with the flag as the main subject. On my research trips, I have photographed the flag whenever and where-ever I saw it. There are at least 225 photos of Old Glory in my files. Not merely because the flag is so prevalent now, but because I have always been patriotic and in awe of the United States of America, her freedom and opportunities, do I consider painting the banner of our country. In my mind, and in sketches, I am planning the composition even now. So watch for a new print this year that honors the flag which we salute and revere. Hurrah! for the red, white and blue.

Carol Thompson

Featured Artwork

Kite Festival



"The sun rises early on a summer day to find the sky already full of billowing kites and eager participants tethered to them along the sandy beach. It is a 'kite festival' weekend in Lincoln City, Oregon, with good wind, clear skies, happy people, and colorful creations of light weight fabric and frames."

Heceta Head



"From a vantage point on the top of a headland overlooking the Pacific, the Heceta Head Lighthouse beams it's spectacular first order Fresnel lens twenty one miles to sea from an elevation of 205 feet. It is one of America's most beautiful and most photographed lighthouses."

Hydrangeas



"While participating in an outdoor art show one summer, I was painting en-plein-aire, when a friend brought me a gift of flowers. I had no vase, but plopped them into a soda can and 'voila', a still life of 'hydrangeas'!."