

January 1, 2007 Issue

The Colors of Winter



How soon the new year arrives! It seems we just got home after spending Christmas with the kids and their families, and now it is New Year's Day! As we eased back into routine, remembering joy and laughter, the days slipped by. Rain fell and the wind blew. Tucked in warm and dry, the short days of winter flipped past as calendar pages in the hands of a mischievous child.

So, here it is, 2007. The seventh year of the new millennium is about to present us with challenges to address with enthusiasm. We are set to learn new and advanced technology to improve the gicles on canvas that we launched in 2006. There will be larger format artwork. The back-up work will become easier with the mastering of color management.

A Carol Thompson hardbound book is "on the drawing board" (figuratively speaking). More booklets are in production on various subjects such as Gouache, and other media, as well as different subject matter; Boats/Harbors, Americana, etc.

So, as the latest Northwest storm blusters outside my window, my thoughts turn to February, March, April,.....

Next issue: Stormy Seas

Winter is here in the far Northwest reaches of the great United States. It seems grey and colorless with endless rain and dark moody skies. That is, until you begin to "see".

Against a deep silvery sky a brilliant streak of vivid blue flashes by. It is followed by another as two Stellar's Jays flit about, seeking a quick meal. Under red-brown twigs of shrubbery (already showing pale green buds swelling), a glimpse of rust and black signals that the Towhees are also feeding along the edges of the hedges. Here and there a robin ricochets under bushes and trees hoping to find the best of the grubs and worms forced to come to the surface by recent rainfall. Partly sunny days are tinged with gold, pink, lavender and blue when a lazy, low hanging sun coaxes the clouds to part momentarily.

The temperature may drop overnight and the rain becomes snow, blanketing the world in white crystal. A pale sunrise casts golden beams over the gentle landscape. Shadows roll rhythmically in purple bands across what was once pedestrian dullness. You follow the sound of children's laughter and see red, blue, yellow, green woolly heads and hands coaxing snow angels from the chilly softness.

"Stellar's Jays flit about, seeking a quick meal"

Winter pansies dressed in purple and gold fit for a queen, nod in the sweeping wind. The

understated lavender and white hues of Kale border the sleeping garden. Tall golden grasses bend gracefully against a backdrop of deep green Douglas fir. Holly trees dazzle the eye with vibrant clumps of red berries set amongst sharply bright green leaves. Red and orange leaves still cling to deciduous trees as though reluctant to "leave the nest" and go adventuring.

"Turn your attention to the beauty....."

In the cities, traffic lights that pulse red, gold and green reflect in a kaleidoscopic display on the wet pavement. People pass by wearing all the hues of a sudden rainbow. Chromatic vehicles of all descriptions move in and out of the glow from windows along the byways.

Colorful? Yes. I turn my attention to the beauty of a resplendent winter in the Northwest. I begin to visualize what media I would use to recreate the subtle beauty of winter. Pastel gives me the vibrancy of the sparkling snow covered vistas. Gouache softens the dark skies and can effectively render grey rainy days. Watercolor can bring to life the garden and it's gentle colors. Oil would capture holly trees, golden grasses and dark Douglas firs.

I ascend to my loft to paint!

Carol Thompson

Featured Artwork

"Clamming In The Bay"



"The hardy people of the Pacific Northwest are spending time to go 'clamming in the bay' at Newport, Oregon. From Senior citizens to young children, this is a healthy family activity."

"Night Street"



"Bright street lights, stop lights and the headlights and taillights of cars and trucks, all glow and reflect in this scene of a 'night street' in the rain; anytown anywhere!"

"Pansy Parade"



"Like waving flags, colorful pansies march along the garden walk. In shades of yellow, gold, maroon, pink, blue, and white, all you need is music for your 'pansy parade'."