

Gaylene Petcu

Artist Statement:

For Gaylene Petcu it was never a question about where she wanted to live, but only a matter of how soon she could get there. After more than 25 years employed as a technical illustrator and graphic artist in the Midwest, she and her husband made the break from corporate life to carve out a home place in Western North Carolina on land going back in her family for many generations. Painting primarily in oil and soft pastels, Gaylene draws inspiration from glorious views of mountain heights and small farms tucked into the valleys. While her work tends toward realism and is still influenced by her years as an illustrator, recently she's been exploring a more imaginative, experimental approach. You're invited to see more of her paintings at www.gaylenepetcu.com

Short biography

Professional Experience:

- 1981 – 2007: Technical Illustrator and Graphic Artist
- 2007 – 2020: Painter

Exhibits, Awards and Honors:

- 2019 – People's Choice - First Place award for "Winter Passage", "BRAGging Rights III" exhibit, at the Herring-Kivette Gallery, Burnsville, NC
- 2015 – "Renaissance of the Family Farm", BRAG* exhibit, at The Design Gallery, Burnsville, NC
- 2014 – Award of Excellence for "Yellow Daylilies", North Carolina Juried Statewide Pastel Exhibition, Charlotte, NC
- 2013 – Honorable Mention for "Plum Daylily", Appalachian Pastel Society Juried Exhibition, Black Mountain, NC
- 2013 – "Bloom!" solo exhibit at The Design Gallery, Burnsville, NC
- 2012 – "The Power of 10", Wednesday Painter Exhibition, Burnsville, NC
- 2011 – Recipient of Regional Artist's Project Grant from the NC Arts Council**
- 2011 – Cover artist, The Laurel of Asheville magazine
- 2010 – Second place award for "Elderberry", Blue Ridge Parkway Plein Air Competition
- 2010 – Second Place and People's Choice award for "Morning Light", at Banner Elk, NC plein air paintout

* BRAG – Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild

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