

Kat Turczyn

Biography

Kat has a master's in Public Health and almost 40 years of experience in the field of health statistics. She began painting in oils at the distinguished age of 65, and has taken numerous workshops from acclaimed painters around the U.S. to perfect her broad-ranged style. Kat is a member of the Toe River Arts Council (TRAC) and the Blue Ridge Fine Arts Guild (BRAG). Her paintings have been exhibited in several galleries in North Carolina, as well as in her studio, "Kat's Flat Art," at the Shops at Celo in Burnsville, NC. Her art hangs in many private homes around the country, in the lobbies of Mission Health facilities in Asheville and Spruce Pine, NC, and as murals in a Spruce Pine motel. In May of 2010, her self-portrait (in pastel) won first place at the First Annual BRAG Art Show. In 2015, one of her paintings resulting from a workshop with Curt Butler was chosen to be reproduced on a 10' x 10' canvas and was displayed for a year in Center City Park, Gastonia, NC. In December 2016, her artwork was featured on the cover and in an article in *The Laurel of Asheville*, a magazine for arts and culture in Western NC. In 2019, she won a competition among several hundred WNC artists to paint a large commissioned piece for the new North wing of Asheville's Mission Hospital.

Statement

Since June of 2010, when I was asked to join Sandra Gates' Wednesday Painters group, I have been soaking up knowledge about oil painting and experimenting wildly, particularly since I started renting a studio in 2012. I have played with many different styles, from realism to abstract and everything in between, using various mediums and mark-making instruments including palette knives, credit cards, combs, spatulas, and many sizes, shapes, and types of brushes. Mixing color and exploring color combinations are where I have the most fun. My subjects range from commissioned pet and people portraits to plein air and abstract landscapes to completely nonobjective work where viewers can imagine whatever they want to see. My painting style continues to evolve, and I am heading toward more and more intuitive work, but my intention remains -- always -- to imbue the love and joy I have in my heart into each painting I create. Little is off my to-paint list or my how-to-paint list and I don't always live up to my own standards, but this passion to paint gets me up in the morning and keeps me thrilled and delighted with this precious life.