

Artist's Statement

D. Arthur McBride

When creating a painting, whether it is a portrait, landscape or still life subject, the composition is initially laid out on the canvas in graphite, making adjustments as needed. Over the drawing I then establish values with a semi-detailed "raw umber" under painting. This will completely dry before and color is added.

When painting a portrait, the immediate and crucial factor for me is capturing the likeness. The play of light and color then help to develop interest and impact. I enjoy bringing out subtle hues in the skin tones to surprise and intrigue the viewer to look more closely. My goal is to create a work of art which not only is an accurate representation of the person, but which also is a delight to the senses and touches the viewer at an emotional level. In general, the same attention applies to the painting of a pet or wild animal.

Although portraits have been my first love in painting, I also enjoy capturing the beauty of nature. With landscapes or seascapes I prefer a more impressionistic loose approach, and frequently utilize the palette knife to achieve that quality. Lighting, whether dramatic or subtle, has always been the pivotal element around which all my paintings are created.