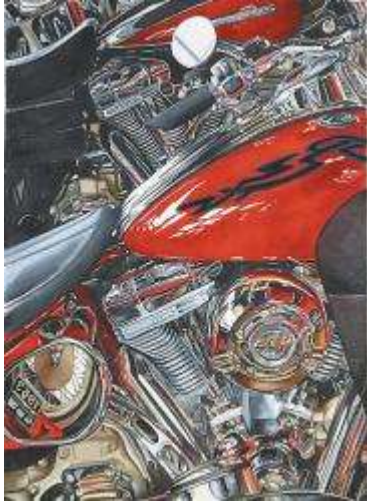


Clarence Center artist to be featured in magazine

by ETHAN POWERS
Editor



A painting by Kathleen Dworak entitled “Chrome and Mirrors,” is currently on a national tour with the American Watercolor Society. Clarence Center watercolor artist Kathleen Dworak said she once believed that her passion for art and painting was little more than a gratifying hobby.

More than 20 years later, painting has become much more than a leisurely pursuit for Dworak. It’s her full-time profession.

Dworak’s work and process will be featured in the December issue of *Watercolor Artist* magazine — a bimonthly publication that features how-to instruction and inspiration for artists working in water-based media. Each issue also includes special reports on timely topics in the art world, artist profiles and tips from experts

in the field.

The artistic flame in Dworak was ignited through a college course at the University at Buffalo she took purely out of curiosity. When she found herself ahead of the credit allotment needed to graduate with a psychology degree, she decided to take a class that could serve as a cathartic antidote to her more academic coursework.

She always was intrigued by painting, so a course titled “Art for Non-Majors” particularly caught her eye. Dworak needed only one lesson before she was struck with an educational epiphany.

“It was sort of like that Bugs Bunny cartoon where the light bulb appears over his head,” says Dworak with a laugh.

Upon graduation, Dworak engrossed herself in various painting workshops and classes, absorbing any kind of instruction that would allow her to hone and define her newly acquired craft. Her work began to make rounds through the local gallery circuits, and many began to take notice, resulting in several commissions for Dworak’s work.

As the years passed and as her children were born, certain responsibilities threatened to keep Dworak’s painting in a state of perpetual suspension. Yet each time, the call of putting brush to canvas lured Dworak back into the studio.

“There were times when I’d be thinking, ‘Maybe it’s time to put the art brush away,’ but then I’d sell a painting,” she said. “It was like the universe was telling me something.”

Now, Dworak works as a full-time artist, as she works off commissions and submits her art in both local and national award competitions. Her chromatic watercolor of a motorcycle recently introduced Dworak to an international audience.

The painting, titled “Chrome and Mirrors,” was started on a whim as Dworak’s husband asked her if she would be willing to draw one of his bikes.

“I like to get inspiration from the environment, painting landscapes, but I started painting motorcycles on a fluke, mainly because my husband has a bike and he wondered if I could paint chrome,” she said.

Dworak decided to send an image of the painting to the American Watercolor Society, knowing that its 150th anniversary exhibition in April would feature renowned artists from around the world. Two months later, she received an email stating that her work had been accepted.

The opportunity to see her work showcased among some of the most prominent international watercolor works was one that Dworak was not willing to let pass by. She committed to attending the gala’s dinner, held in April at the Salmagundi Art Club in New York City’s Greenwich Village, and visited the website for some information related to travel.

It was there that she discovered that she had actually won an award to be presented at the exhibition.

The editor of Watercolor Artist magazine attended the showcase and saw Dworak’s painting. She contacted Dworak via email, inquiring if she would be interested in writing an article for the magazine related to the process of painting chrome reflections.

Dworak’s article, which features several photos of her original work, will appear in the December issue’s “Watercolor Essentials” section.

For Dworak, the accolades she receives do little to satiate the call for artistry.

“I’ve talked to other artists, and we all say the same thing — we paint because we have to,” she said. “I think if Wayne Gretzky wasn’t playing hockey, he would still be out there skating and shooting. Painting is a creative outlet. I think everyone has one and for each one of us, it’s just about finding what that is.”