

## WSA NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT 7/2016

Recently Ann Pember, an Alabama Watercolor Society Signature Gold member, shared a little bit about her-self. She is a busy artist, just completing a 4th digital book, "Discover Your Inner Inspiration". She states, "It is a short book about the spiritual side of painting and how our environment and everything that makes up our life and who we are effects our artwork."



With this creative process or ritual in preparation to work on her art she likes "to paint from a place of quiet and peace, so no music in the background anymore. The best situation for me is to sit and meditate briefly before painting, seeing my imagined, completed painting in my mind's eye as I would like it to be". Ann is not a late bloomer to art as she said as soon as she was old enough to hold a pencil she "began drawing and never stopped". And watercolor became her favorite of all the mediums in high school. She continued her studies with BFA Massachusetts College of Art and numerous watercolor workshops.

John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth, Charles Reid are among her favorite artists.

Her love of art has contributed to the design of her home, gardens and much of everything in her life. Of which she shared, "I have always enjoyed gardening and have done all the yard work here. It includes numerous gardens, stone walls and paths". In fact, her 5-day workshops locally includes a welcome party at her home on Lake Champlain. And she has a workshop coming up July 11 -15th.

When I asked what she is working on now, she said "I've been working on a variety of smooth surfaces; coated paper, smooth boards and papers. They allow lifting and wonderful textures. I like painting directly, slipping darks into washes before they dry, rather than building with glazes. The paint seems more luminous and brilliant to me when applied that way".

"I prefer traditional cold pressed water- color papers that do not need stretching and that allow easy lifting; Lana, Waterford, Jack Richeson, Fabriano Artistico. Not Arches anymore. It does not allow lifting as well and needs stretching. It is more suited to glazing than my more direct way of painting. I also love a variety of smooth surfaces. My favorite is Strathmore 500 series, 5 ply, plate surface illustration board."

When I asked, "what is the best advice she has been given to as an artist?", she replied, "Paint what you know and love. Use enough mid tones. Don't make darks too dark or black. Soften some edges. Don't use more than one opaque in a wash for clean color".

She went on to share that membership with the Watercolor Society of Alabama and other societies is a wonderful goal to keep an artist painting. Entering juried shows tests one's ability to work at improving their art and grow. New opportunities as well as challenges come with improvement. Check out Ann's website at [www.annpember.com](http://www.annpember.com)