



## Sue Martin

Artist/Instructor

Painting challenges me to explore my response to the world around me and inside me through a spontaneous give-take with materials I use. It's an intuitive, meditative process that has become essential to my own well-being. I can only hope that it results in something that will be lovely and meaningful to the viewer.

For me, the fun part of painting is giving up some control and allowing the paint to flow and mix in unexpected ways, and then responding as though in conversation with the materials. The unexpected presents a creative problem to be solved: "What if....I paint a landscape on top of patterns of abstract color?

Or, stamp patterns randomly on the paper before

beginning the subject? Or, squeegee texture onto the canvas? Or, draw the subject without looking at the paper (blind contour drawing)? Or, add pieces of collage paper in the process? Or...or...or? There are endless possibilities that call for creative solutions that take my work out of the strictly realistic realm toward a more expressive or abstracted outcome.

I work on series of related subjects, sometimes painting the same image over and over, each time varying the painting by changing the process and/or materials used. In this way, I arrive at a deeper relationship with the subject and, hopefully, a deeper experience for the viewer.

I'm a late-blooming artist. Though I painted well in high school, I gave up art to pursue a career in public relations and raise a family. I began taking art classes and workshops in 1998, a few years after moving to Salt Lake City. In 2009, I enrolled in the art program at the University of Utah, earning my BFA degree in 2013. In a previous life, I received BA and MA degrees in theatre and a graduate certificate in public relations.

I'm a former member of Art at the Main artists' co-op, and a past-president of the Utah Watercolor Society. Currently, I serve on the board of Art Access. I teach a Saturday afternoon water media class for adults in the Murray area.

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