

Leslie Sweetland - Artist Statement

I have always loved art. My search of a way to express the art I see in my mind's eye has taken the better part of 40 years to come to fruition. When I was 11, I took my first oil painting classes at a local art supply store. Without my knowing it, one of my paintings was submitted to the school district art competition where it took third place. Then, as happens with many, my life went in another direction. For thirty years I worked in the information technology field. During those years, I attended a variety of drawing and painting classes through local community colleges and university extension programs continuously feeding the artistic part of me. Now as a full time professional artist, I draw and paint a variety of subjects using the medium that best allows me to convey the mood and my vision of the subject. For the past couple of years I have found that working with soft pastels gives me the greatest satisfaction. Soft pastels allow me to easily portray the essence and beauty of nature in its purest form.

Accomplishments

First Place - Pastels, San Clemente Art Assoc Winter judged show, San Clemente, CA, Jan 2014

Second Place, Paso Robles Art Assoc "Whatever" show, Paso Robles, CA, June 2013
Best of Show, San Clemente Art Assoc Summer judged show, San Clemente, CA, May 2013

Second Place - Idyllwild Plein Air Competition, Idyllwild, CA, June 2012

Second Place - Pastels, San Clemente Art Assoc Fall judged show, San Clemente, CA, Aug 2011

Second Place - Pastels, San Clemente Art Assoc Spring judged show, San Clemente, CA, Feb 2011

Third Place - Pastels, Fallbrook Art Assoc judged show, Fallbrook, CA, October 2010
Accepted, Pastel Society of the West Coast Membership show, Auburn, CA, July 2010
Featured Artist, Pinnell Gallery, Fallbrook, CA, June 2010

Best of Show, San Clemente Art Assoc Summer judged show, San Clemente, CA, May 2010

Peoples Choice, San Clemente Art Assoc Summer judged show, San Clemente, CA, May 2010

First Place, Art of the Avocado judged show, Fallbrook, CA, April 2010

First Place - Pastels, Fallbrook Art Assoc juried show, Fallbrook, CA, April 2010

Best of Show, San Clemente Art Assoc Spring judged show, San Clemente, CA, Feb 2010