

For me, a great painting is one that conveys a feeling or strikes a chord in the viewers heart and innermost being. This starts in the heart of the artist, in my heart. I find that the pieces that are most inspiring to me are the ones that follow a specific mood or theme in my life. My mood and what I am thinking will affect my paintings.

There are times when I search for a specific subject matter.

I often will look for a specific subject matter, like Christmas or winter and find a subject that moves me, a picture that conveys a feeling I have, a picture that touches my heart, like "Wonder of a Snowflake" and "Just Helping." As I painted "Wonder of a Snowflake" I was thinking of snow and the experience in childhood of gentle snow falling. I felt the wonder of the soft snowflakes falling around me, the soft wet kisses as they would fall upon my face and the stillness and silence that would cause me to pause in the busyness of life and enjoy a snow we do so



often in our childhood before "life" gets in the way. As I painted "Just Helping" I was remembering my mischievous puppy and the way she would always help with decorating at Christmas time. Even though, at times, her "help" would frustrate me, I felt laughter and love as together we would sort through Christmas decorations trying to make this year's tree the best it can be.

Around Canadian Remembrance Day, I wanted to paint something in memory of those who lost loved ones. I searched for something that would reflect their pain and sorrow. For the piece "Unforgettable" (man on park bench, holding a single rose), as I painted, I remembered those who lost loved ones during the wars. I felt the sadness of this man as he looked at the rose and seemed to be remembering a loved one. I also felt his aloneness as he sat on a bench at night in the street light with no one around. While I felt alone and sad when painting this picture, I was also reminded that sometimes these quiet, sad moments are meant to draw us into a relationship with our God, to spend time in prayer, pleading for answers and comfort.

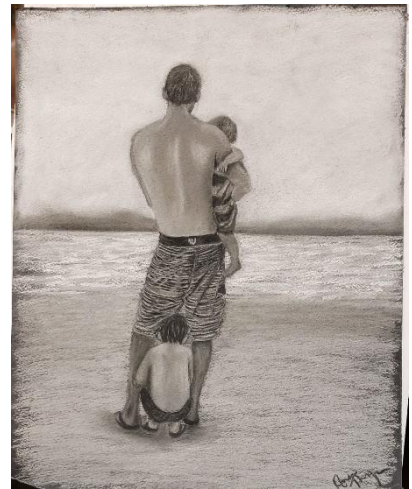


There are other times when I find a subject and it instills a feeling in my heart that makes me paint it.



When I found the picture of two lions cuddling, I felt the love and affection passing between them. I wanted to share this feeling with others, with those who view my artwork. As I painted it, my mind was focused on the emotion conveyed by these two lions. I felt the comfort the lions so obviously feel in touching and being close to each other and want the viewer to feel that comfort as well when they take time to enjoy "Cuddling Lions."

There are many times a photo reference presents itself and inspires me to paint. When I found the reference photo of a man at the beach with 2 children, I immediately seen my son and grandsons. I felt the safety and security the man provided for the children. I wanted to create a piece that conveyed this security in the heart of the viewer. While I was painting "Boy Time at the Lake," although I felt a sense of aloneness in the man, I also felt a tangible sense of strength that he was drawing from his surroundings. I felt the peace and the bonding time that the family would be feeling standing at the water's edge, alone on a quiet beach. Sometimes just looking over the water at the beach can bring us to a stillness that draws us closer to God.



My paintings are little bits of me, moving from within me and out onto the canvas. I thank God for the ability to share my feelings in this way.

"To be passionate about life as an artist is a privilege....."
We all know how fortunate we are!
We see a new painting in every corner!
We see beauty in the flower of a weed!
We see animals and shapes in the clouds like children do!
We still behave silly at times just because we want to!
We are extremely sensitive souls and that's ok!!
We dive right in with our emotions!
We understand life and don't judge!
We live on love (even though we are told there is no such thing!!😊);
We live passionately because we know no other way!
We know!, we see, we feel, we understand, we live!!.....Art is life and life is love!! my friends!!"
quote from Janet Knight

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