

Accidental Artist/Physician Exhibits Her Work at Huggins Hospital

By Debbie Mueller, MD

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My path to becoming an artist is surprising and unconventional. After a life of believing I had no artistic ability, I was visiting my parents in 2016, and during a dull, rainy day, my mother suggested painting as an activity. I looked for a reason to decline- the idea held little interest for me - but lacking anything better to do, I accepted, and created my first painting. It was a terrible painting, but I loved the way it made me feel- focused, meditative, and productive. When I returned home, I went to the art supply store, came home with canvases and paint, and my journey began!

During the last five years, I have studied, and covered a mile of canvas to grow as an artist and achieve some significant successes. In 2018, I was awarded First Place in Artist's Magazine's annual art competition for landscape paintings by artists with less than six years of experience. I have won Best in Show awards through the Art Guild of the Kennebunks and the Parrisboro International Plein Air Festival, as well as other significant awards from the New Hampshire Art Association and the Cape Cod Art Center. My paintings have been juried into highly competitive national shows for Oil Painters of America and the National Society of Acrylic and Oil Painters. Now my work is available through Mast Cove Gallery in Kennebunkport, Kennedy Gallery in Portsmouth, and Cortile Gallery in Provincetown.

In cooperation with the Governor Wentworth Arts Council, I was able to exhibit my work at Huggins Hospital during the months of May and June. I selected a variety of landscape paintings for this exhibition. Some were "Plein Air" paintings, done outdoors on a portable easel, being able to respond to the immediacy of the light and atmospheric conditions, while others were done in my home studio. Twenty percent of the proceeds of any sales were donated to the Sunshine Fund at Huggins Hospital, a fund that assists employees in crisis. The hospital is currently restricting visitors to patients and their caregivers, and staff, but you can view the collection online at www.debbiemuellerart.com.