

Joan Gessner
BIO

I have enjoyed the challenge of watercolor painting for over 36 years having begun this quest with an intro class to watercolor in Mississippi. At that time, I was told by my instructor that watercolor was not my medium and I would do better going back to oils. About five years after that profound statement I won the "People's Choice" award at the World's Fair in New Orleans with a watercolor painting titled, "The Quilt". Taking advantage of my 16 years in Mississippi, I studied the Civil War and depicted, in watercolor, my personal rendition of the generals involved in the conflict. Several of these works hang in the battle field and interstate welcome centers throughout the south. The last in the series was a portrait of Crazy Horse which led me to study the early plight of the native Americans and portray, in watercolor, an intimate look at this movement in history. Mississippi also gave me an opportunity to study and portray the black people engaged in everyday activities. This series included "Cora Fluker", a spiritual black woman who sang about the plight of the black people through the ages.

My stay of 11 years in Seattle introduced me to painting mountains and floras of the Northwest. I also taught watercolor painting at Daniel Smith in Seattle.

Moving to the Northeast 13 years ago gave me the opportunity to explore the charm of New England's Farms and the intense color of the fall. I am presently working on a retrospective of Woodsom Farm in Amesbury, Massachusetts. The Northeast also brought numerous "Best of Show and First in Watercolor" awards.

Having traveled all over the globe, I just returned from Peru's Amazonia where I taught art to the river children. I currently enjoy teaching art in my Victorian home in Amesbury, Massachusetts. My retirement is spent passing on my hard-earned talent to my gifted students, both children and adults. I offer a variety of classes to those who wish to raise their consciousness thru painting.

My studio, 30 E. Greenwood, Amesbury, MA. is a "PLACE WHERE DREAMS BECOME REALITY."