

Inspiration for Art:

Motivated by Beauty & Meaning

by

Mary Kercher

September 16 - October 16, 2016

Reception: Sunday, September 18 from 1 - 4 p.m.



Mattawoman Creek Art Center

Alaskan Fireweed



Inspiration for Art – a few thoughts...

What can be more inspiring than this wonderful world God has given us to inhabit – the flowers & trees & oceans & birds & sunsets & moonlit shadows & the faces of friends & family? The beauty of our surroundings fills our souls with such richness: color, texture, depth, value, & movement. It inspires us all – painters, poets, musicians and those who appreciate the arts.

Biography

Mary Kercher, a native of Iowa, has lived in Maryland since 1968. After retirement in 2003 from the Prince George's County Public Schools as a secondary English teacher and computer specialist, she has taken up painting, a lifelong interest she had not had the time to pursue. She had some training starting with an artist who taught classes in her home to neighborhood children when she was in elementary school, a drawing class in college, and oil and watercolor classes with Betsy Anderson, Pat Arnold, Peter Ulrich, and Pat Stradlin plus workshops at the Corner Studio and Mattawoman Creek Art Center. She has been accepted into numerous MCAC juried shows and twice received honorable mentions. She won Best in Show in the Charles County Senior Art Competition in 2008 and 2011.

Mary lives in Port Tobacco with her husband Barry. She has two sons and four grandchildren. She is an avid reader and enjoys gardening and in the last few years has rediscovered another love of hers, music-- in playing the piano and organ occasionally for Christ Church in La Plata.

Artist Statement

Creativity has been a major part of my life. I have always liked to make things, work with computer graphics and desktop publishing, write, and now, since I've retired, paint. Painting has opened up a whole new world. I am more observant of what is around me: shapes, shadows and the powerful colors produced by sunlight. My painting reflects who I am and what I like. My love of gardening is manifested with flowers in many of my paintings. I enjoy humor in nature usually involving animals and scenes that show a quiet, reflective mood such as a snow scene with subtle images in the background, a river with reflections cast in the water or grasses waving in the breeze. It is difficult for me to paint something unless it evokes some kind of feeling. Painting allows me to go somewhere quiet within myself, and I find that a week with no painting is a week where something is missing in my life!

Alaskan Fireweed



Alaskan Fireweed

Mary Kercher

We visited Alaska in 2007 and our photographs are a treasure trove of possibilities for paintings. Our guide told us about these beautiful flowers. They start blooming from the bottom up and as they reach the top, it is time for fall.

I added some of the lovely lavender to the sky to create a more coherent painting.

Oil (19.5" X 15.5")

\$120

Boats for Rent



Boats for Rent

Mary Kercher

This was from an old photograph my husband had of Promised Land Lake in the Pocono Mountains. He has fond memories of vacations there with his cousins. I liked the boats and the shades of water near them. I found a good use for an old frame and fabric mat to complete the picture.

Watercolor (10.5" X 12.5")

\$40

Spring Bursts Forth



Spring Bursts Forth

Mary Kercher

The process in this painting is my inspiration. It is just a lot of fun! An outline is made of the objects with a black pen. Then one starts with the lightest colors and brushes on hot wax where you want those colors to be protected. It is a series of applying paint in layers of color and value with the darkest ones going on last. Make sure the whole painting is covered in wax. Crumple the paper and paint with your darkest color over the entire waxed painting. The paint will adhere to the cracks in the wax. The last step is to iron the painting between layers of newspaper until all the wax is gone.

Watercolor on Ginwashi Paper (22" X 18")

\$80

Moments



Moments

Mary Kercher

This started out as just a hibiscus, but it seemed so plain and I liked the background so I didn't want to just crop the flower. I found it amusing to add butterfly stamps and the saying about moments. I painted the back of the stamps with heavier watercolor paint.

Watercolor (14" X 17")

\$50

Sunlit Woods



Sunlit Woods

Mary Kercher

This was a project I did in Pat Arnold's class. We put gesso on our paper before beginning so that we could wipe out areas we wanted to be lighter. You can see the brushstrokes from the gesso. I did leave the sunlit part with only yellow so it remained a bit more pure. It was fun taking my brush with water only and creating the vines up the tree by removing some of the paint.

Watercolor (13" X 15")

\$90

Point of View



Point of View

Mary Kercher

We live in Port Tobacco about a block away from our son who lives on the river. This is a view from "the Point," a small piece of land that juts out and is a favorite place for us to take a walk. The river is very impressive as it is quite wide. But, it is only about four feet deep in most places except for a channel that allows boats to the marina which is on the opposite side from us.

Oil (22" X 26")

\$200

Sara



Sara

Mary Kercher

Do you recognize this location?

Sarah Wardell is the instructor here sharing her love of painting with light and color. Along with the classes I have taken, the workshops here at MCAC have influenced my painting as well. I enjoyed painting her hat as it seemed to really pick up the sunlight.

We worked with simple cubes if you are wondering what she is sketching in charcoal.

Watercolor (13" X 16")

\$60

In the Moment



In the Moment

Mary Kercher

When we moved to Port Tobacco in 1998, little did I know that I would have two wonderful neighbors who would share their flowers with me so that I have rarely had to purchase anything myself! One of the plants was this beautiful pink and white hibiscus. The flowers are just out of this world – almost gaudy! They are a good reminder to enjoy the present without thoughts of the past or future as they last only one day.

Watercolor (16" X 20")

\$300

Reflections



Reflections

Mary Kercher

I must give credit to my husband who is such an avid photographer when he goes kayaking on the Port Tobacco River. I was fascinated with this one as it is all reflections in the water except for the white egret, that little patch of grass on the left side and the vegetation in the lower left hand corner.

Oil (16.5" X 13.5")

\$120

White Iris



White Iris

Mary Kercher

So far, I consider this to be my best painting. I love showing values in a painting and I feel this one does that well. I also like this kind of a background as it's interesting but does not overwhelm the focal point which is the iris. As the Bible says, "Solomon in all his glory is not arrayed like one of these." Actually that refers to lilies but I think the same could be said for iris.

Watercolor (14.5" X 18")

\$300

Glacier Bay



Glacier Bay

Mary Kercher

When I first saw this Alaskan glacier, I was struck by the values with the dark mountain on the left creating a dark shadow and the snow and strange blue color of the glacier. I wanted to paint it because it was so grand and powerful. I had always been fascinated by what glaciers did to our landscape but had never seen one before. It was like seeing something out of another age.

Watercolor (23" X 19")

\$90

The Sentry



The Sentry

Mary Kercher

We met this roseate spoonbill at the National Zoo. He seemed to be standing guard at the entrance to the butterfly garden – as if to exact our tickets or be thrown out! I wasn't sure what a pinch from that bill might feel like so quickly hurried by – after taking a picture, of course.

Watercolor (14" X 17")

\$80

Honk



Honk

Mary Kercher

This is about as abstract as I get! Painting with watercolor on Yupo paper is a lot of fun. The paper is very smooth and you can remove paint easily if it is not the staining type. You can put paint down on a sheet of Yupo and then place a clean Yupo sheet on top so that the paint mixes together and gives all sorts of interesting effects. Try to find something that looks like an object and pull it out by removing or adding paint.

Watercolor on Yupo Paper (12" X 10")

\$40

Waiting for You



Waiting for You

Mary Kercher

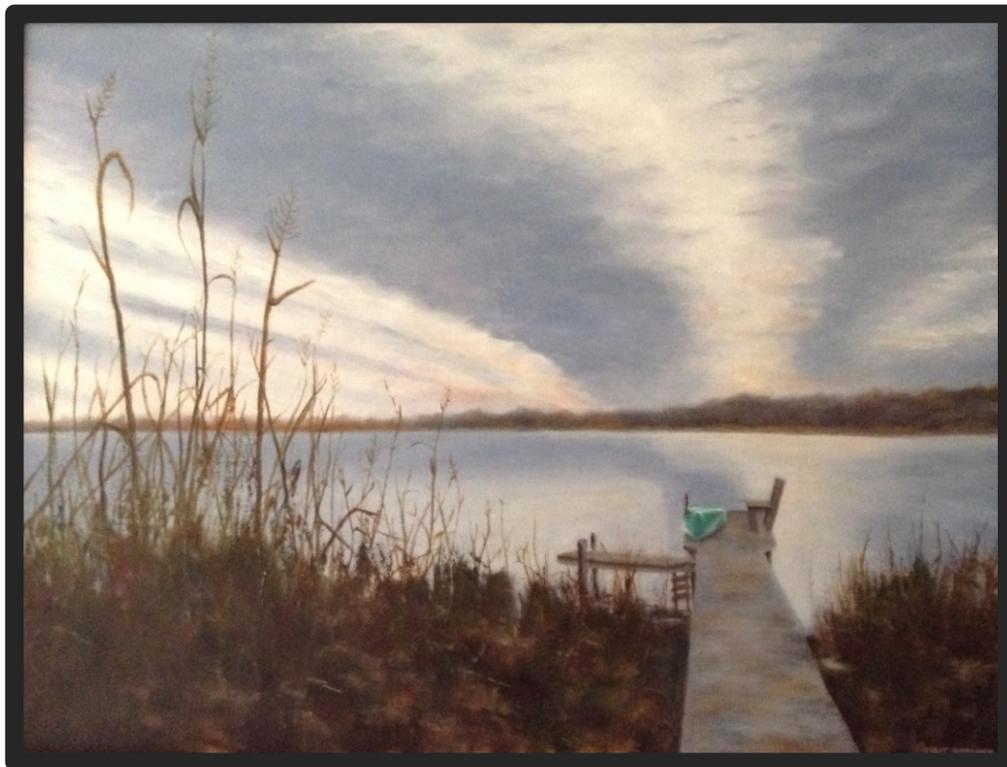
This is our son's dock on the Port Tobacco River and my husband's kayak. We live down the road. Kayaking is my husband's favorite pastime so I painted this for him and gave it to him for our 50th wedding anniversary.

This was my first time painting on such a large canvas. I jumped right in because I painted over someone else's painting. In fact, there may be a bit of the first painting somewhere there in the reeds! I know that painters often like to put a small red object in their work and the kayak could have been red, but since this was a gift with special meaning, I needed to keep it the correct color.

We sometimes walk down to the river and sit on that bench. At times, the water is like glass and the only sounds are the insects, frogs and birds. I feel closer to God there than anywhere else because there it has the feeling of eternity and the cares of the world slip away.

Oil (41" X 31")

NFS



Leaves



Leaves

Mary Kercher

I enjoyed making the contrasting dark next to the lighter green. It was an easy way to define the edges of the leaves.

Watercolor (12" X 10")

\$40

Winter on Pear Alley



Winter on Pear Alley

Mary Kercher

This is the back of the house where my husband grew up in Reading, PA. He planted the tree after he had left home when the previous one died. I was never sure whether his parents liked it or not as this one grew so high and sent leaves and “helicopters” into all of the neighboring yards. I think they were a little embarrassed about that!

Watercolor (17.5” X 14”)

\$60

Fall Harvest Bouquet



Fall Harvest Bouquet

Mary Kercher

These are all flowers and grasses from my yard (except the purple ones I purchased at Safeway). In fact, I brought all of these items for the still life we used here at MCAC when Hugh O'Neill taught a workshop last October. I can picture all of these plants in my yard and I enjoy them every time I look at them. The white chrysanthemums are such a surprise as they look more like a spring flower than a fall one, but they add so much to the bouquet to make it timeless.

Oil (20" X 24")

\$350

Looking for a Sunbeam



Looking for a Sunbeam

Mary Kercher

I had been painting with my youngest grandson Isaac who also enjoys art. Sitting out in their screened in porch later, I started drawing with the paints as their cat found a sunbeam and proceeded with her cat nap. It was a perfect setup with the fern and the wicker furniture adding some interesting curves. I don't often paint from real life, and I enjoyed the experience – especially since my subject was so willing not to move.

I did it plein air although I was on a screened-in porch! Does that count or is this a still life or maybe a portrait?

Watercolor (13" X 16")

\$100

Autumn Radiance



Autumn Radiance

Mary Kercher

Fall on the Port Tobacco River can be quite dazzling from the glow of all of those golden river grasses. This is a view of our neighbor's home from the end of the dock.

Oil (14" X 17")

\$100

Turnips on Display II



Turnips on Display II

Mary Kercher

I painted this before and really loved it. I guess someone else did, too, because it sold. So, here it is again.

I love the squiggly, wiggly lines created by the roots, and the color of the turnips. I used frisket, a kind of rubber cement that allows you to paint over it and then remove it to keep your light or white areas. It kept those squiggly roots from getting lost. Dry brushing is another technique that works for making the texture of the turnip. The first time I painted the turnips, I had just purchased a tube of permanent magenta – the perfect color for turnips.

I must give credit to the photographer, Pat Arnold, who gave me this photograph in her class. I have taken watercolor classes from Pat Arnold at the Waldorf Sr. Center for 12 years. Pat had once been into photography and has shared her photos with us.

Watercolor (17" X 14")

\$80

Loess Hills



Loess Hills

Mary Kercher

So...what are the Loess Hills?

They are hills made almost entirely of windblown soils. Toward the end of the last ice age, winds picked up soils that had been ground as fine as flour and formed dunes along the ancient waterway that became today's Missouri River. Although deposits of loess are found across the world, nowhere else but China are those deposits higher than they are in Iowa.

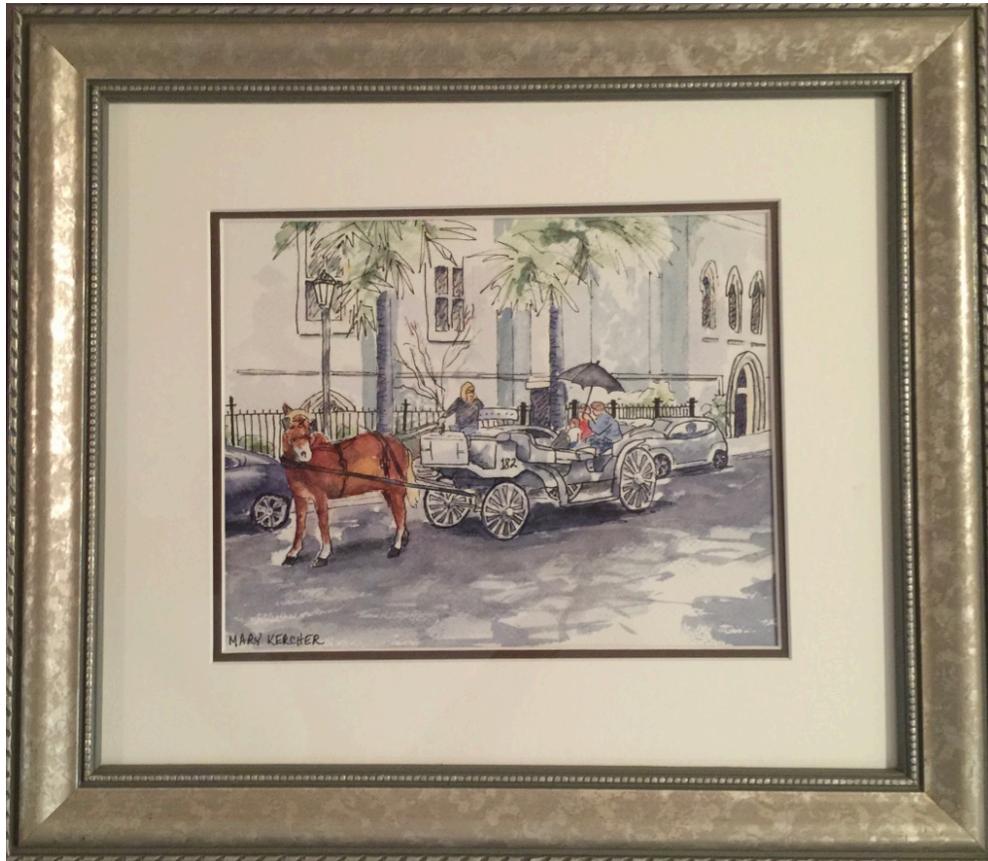
These hills in western Iowa (not far from my hometown of Le Mars) exude a quiet sense of eternity, having such a long history. Feel this unique soil in the attached bag. I took a little sample from the side of the road.

Watercolor (21" X 21")

\$100



Tourist Season



Tourist Season

Mary Kercher

This was done as ink and wash which I find a nice technique for doing buildings. I always think having shadows in a painting adds a lot and there were plenty to do in this picture.

We had visited Charlestown, SC and enjoyed seeing the tourists being driven around in carriages.

Ink and Wash (17" X 15")

\$80

River View



River View

Mary Kercher

We live in Port Tobacco about a block away from our son who lives on the river. This is a view from “the Point” a small piece of land that juts out and is a favorite place for us to take a walk. The river is very impressive as it is quite wide. But, it is only about four feet deep in most places except for a channel that allows boats to the marina which is on the opposite side from us.

Watercolor (19.5” X 23.5”)

\$120

Sailing



Sailing

Mary Kercher

This was another painting I did with Jack Brumbaugh, but I hadn't put the sailboat in so it sat around in the pile of "something missing." Once I added the sailboat, it was complete.

Oil Pastels (15" X 12")

\$90

Blue Heron



Blue Heron

Mary Kercher

This picture was started at the Corner Studio in a workshop with Ray Ewing. We were trying out painting on watercolor board. It's easier to remove paint on this type of surface. I like to put a painting in an odd size frame once in awhile and this one worked fine. I didn't feel the need to add a mat.

Watercolor (7" X 15.5")

\$120

River Reeds



River Reeds

Mary Kercher

We live in Port Tobacco about a block away from our son who lives on the river. This is a view from “the Point” a small piece of land that juts out and is a favorite place for us to take a walk. The river is very impressive as it is quite wide. But, it is only about four feet deep in most places except for a channel that allows boats to the marina which is on the opposite side from us.

Watercolor (14” X 17”)

\$80

Purple Royalty



Purple Royalty

Mary Kercher

I purchased this lovely gold frame at Bernie's Frame Shop during a sale they had just for artists. It seemed perfect for a painting of one flower. So, this spring when my irises were blooming, I picked one, brought it inside and painted it as you see here.

Oil (8" X 8")

\$70

The Blue Ridge

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



The Blue Ridge

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

For one of the sessions in Peter Ulrich's watercolor class, it was decided we would all do a series of paintings. Barry and I had just returned from a trip down the Blue Ridge Mountains, so I chose to paint from photographs taken along the way. Because it was going to be a series, I decided to use three main colors to make the paintings more consistent with each other: indanthrene blue, quinacridone gold, and alizarin crimson.

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100

Jesse Brown Cabin

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



Jesse Brown Cabin

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

Preacher Jesse Brown's Cabin is on Tompkins Knob in the Bluffs District of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The Jesse Brown farmstead consists of a cabin, spring house, and relocated Cool Springs Baptist Church.

I liked the entrance way leading up to the cabin.

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100

Howdy

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



Howdy

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

This friendly horse just stood at the fence and seemed to be welcoming us along our way one early morning, curious as to where we were going as he had nothing to do all day but graze and reflect on his surroundings. I like the way the house in the distance seems to be immersed in the fog.

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100



The Kelley School

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



The Kelley School

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

The Kelley School opened in 1876, a one-room frame building with a shake roof. It had no running water, no electricity, and as late as 1917 there was no outhouse. The rural school closed in 1939 and the building became the residence of the Pates who lived there and ran a small 'country store' business. The Blue Ridge Parkway was built at this time and in the summer months, travelers stopped to get a drink, stretch and talk. Pate's Grocery Store lasted until 1972 when it was sold to the Wares. They ran it as 'Ye Old Country Store' and kept the interior and contents in keeping with its history. Ye Old Country Store existed until 1984 when it was sold to the Blue Ridge Parkway National Park Service.

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100

Mount Mitchell

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



Mount Mitchell

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

As the highest point east of the Mississippi, this mountain affords visitors stunning views of the Blue Ridge Mountains along with their perpetually misty emerald ridges and valleys. This is certainly not the landscape that many travelers equate with the "South." It bears more in common with parts of Canada than it does with most areas below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100

Blowing Rock

Blue Ridge Parkway Series



Blowing Rock

Blue Ridge Parkway Series

Mary Kercher

North Carolina's Blowing Rock features an extraordinary air current that flows upward 4,000 feet over the rock's overhang. The rock was named for the northwest wind that sweeps up with such force that it returns light objects cast over the rock. It is said to be the only place where snow falls upward!

Watercolor (22" X 18")

\$100

Gippie



Gippie

Mary Kercher

I found an old photograph in my stepfather's things after he died. He had told us stories about Gippie and what a smart dog he was. The only one I recall, however, is that the dog used to back up to bushes to do his "business" so that you wouldn't step in it! I enjoyed the humor in this photograph and thought it would make a fun painting. I tried to stay with subtle colors to be in keeping with the age of the photograph.

Watercolor (12" X 10")

\$60

Friendship Farm



Friendship Farm

Mary Kercher

A walk in the Friendship Farm Park in Southern Maryland brought us to the remnants of this barn that mother nature has overtaken. I loved the way the light comes in through the slats of the barn and how the gnarled branches of trees almost devour it.

I won an Honorable Mention on this painting in an MCAC juried show. The juror liked the way the painting invited the viewer into it.

Oil (21" X 17")

\$100

Reaching for the Sky



Reaching for the Sky

Mary Kercher

Who doesn't like sunflowers? They're as American as apple pie! This oil painting is based on a couple of photographs of sunflowers that Barry planted. There was the top of our roof on one of them which I tried to put in the painting but it didn't work. It just seemed the background for the sunflowers needed to be the sky. I love the way the petals randomly curl in any direction and the rich color of the inside of the sunflower. Sunflowers are a symbol to me of nature smiling at us.

Oil (12" X 24")

\$120

Sunday Best



Sunday Best

Mary Kercher



Marilyn Barber had a picture of herself on Facebook and when I saw it I knew I wanted to paint it. I have enjoyed the paintings of southwestern women with big hats and flowers by Linda Carter-Holman. In the photograph, Marilyn is carrying a small arrangement of flowers rather than this armload of yellow roses. I have also changed the color of her purse and made the hat a bit larger. I used salt to make the print on her blue dress.

Marilyn was an avid participant in the workshops and programs I did as a technology specialist for Prince George's County Public Schools. We were great friends and her wonderful enthusiasm pervaded everything she did. She also has an abundant faith that has been a big part of her family. I think the title I have given this painting reflects Marilyn's spirit.



Watercolor (24.5" X 24.5")

NFS

Mount Aventine



Mount Aventine

Mary Kercher

This is the view from the front of the historic home Mount Aventine as one looks towards the Potomac River. This lovely home in Chapman's State Park is a treasure trove for plein air painters. This took two days at the site for me to finish.

Oil (17" X 14")

\$120

Razzle Dazzle



Razzle Dazzle

Mary Kercher

This flower popped up in my garden a few years ago. It is a spider lily, but it certainly looks like it is celebrating something! I don't recall seeing it since.

Watercolor (11" X 11")

\$65

Rhine River Cruise



Rhine River Cruise

Mary Kercher

In 2011 Barry and I took this cruise. Usually, the boat moved at night, landing at the next day's excursion stop. But, the next to last day, we spent the morning, sailing up the river and enjoying the sites along the way. It was foggy in some places as it was here in this painting. Seeing castles on the hillsides and idyllic other scenes transported us into a whole different mind frame – just as a good vacation should!

This was the first time I painted on Arches art board, made with mould-made French watercolor paper. The advertisement says it is the ultimate choice for watercolor washes, and it worked beautifully for the background wash. I made up a small jar of my wash before I began so that I would not run out. It really was amazing and for once, I had enough water on my brush to make it work.

Watercolor (26.5" X 23")

\$100



The Cloud



The Cloud

Mary Kercher

This was a project for our Recycled Art Show awhile back. I used CDs I had collected while working in Prince George's County Public Schools as a technology specialist. Each year we had a Maryland Instructional Computer Coordinator's Convention. We gathered up samples of new programs that vendors gave out. Of course, CDs were one of the first vehicles for storing large amounts of information. So it seemed right to name this piece The Cloud!



Collage (39.5" X 15.5")

\$40

Smallwood State Park



Smallwood State Park

Mary Kercher

Plein air painting in the rain is quite a challenge! Luckily, we found a shelter to paint under. Thanks to Barbara Stepura, I was able to complete this one in just one day – heeding her suggestions of “more paint” and “don’t go over it!”

Oil (12” X 15”)

\$120

Pink Poppies



Pink Poppies

Mary Kercher

I had never seen pink poppies before, but anything is possible when you are in the land of OZ! My sister Karen and her partner George had a shop called Land of OZ and Ends in Chittenango, NY, birthplace of Frank Baum, the author of the book. George's parents had a plant nursery so of course, there must be exotic poppies on the grounds of their shop.

Watercolor (11" X 9")

\$50

Petunias



Petunias

Mary Kercher

My sister-in-law gave my husband these pots for his birthday. I have since dismantled them because it was difficult to keep the plants watered. The soil would flow over the side with the water and it just didn't work! But when it did work, it made for some lovely cascading petunias. The lattice-work behind them adds a lot of background interest and was fun to paint.

Watercolor (23" X 19")

\$120

Herring Cove



Herring Cove

Mary Kercher

We were standing on Herring Cove, an island with a rain forest, and looking out towards the icy island on the horizon during our cruise in Alaska. We always think of warm climates as having rain forests, It almost seemed incongruent to have so much vegetation here and absent elsewhere.

Oil (15" X 12")

\$100

Days of Wine & Roses



Days of Wine & Roses

Mary Kercher

This pastel was done on a black background in a workshop with Denise Calisti who can do wonders with pastels. I enjoyed making the subtle tones of brown in the shutter and the lovely lavender of the structure itself.

Pastels (21" X 25")

\$120

Water Lilies



Water Lilies

Mary Kercher

Water lilies are another extraordinary flower – to have a pond become a flower garden! What a unique idea! The large leaves look like stepping stones for fairies – one can let one's imagination fly with such fantastic creations.

I love these lush colors punctuated by the whites and hint of yellow. This is one time the powerful thalo green blends in with the water color to create a stunning background for white lilies. The shadows in the water create a lot of interest and draw the viewer to its depths.

Oil (16" X 12")

\$65

A is for Apple



A is for Apple

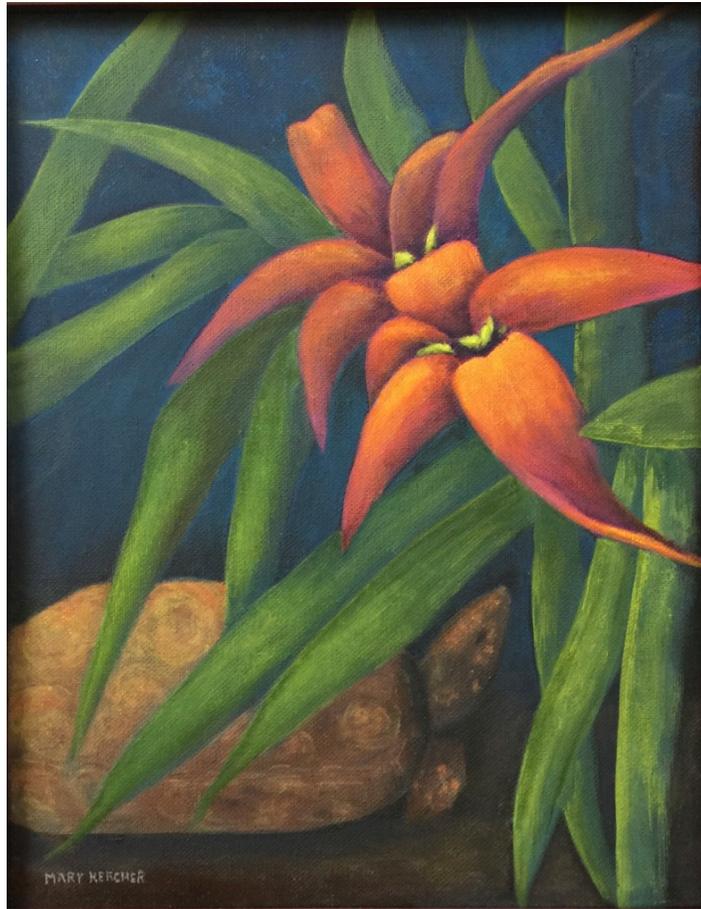
Mary Kercher

The original temptation -- we would all be living in paradise if it weren't for this object! Well, I cannot blame Eve as I might have been tempted also. Artists often do still life studies that never get framed. This one didn't for a long time, but going through my stash of "don't quite like it" paintings, I decided I did like it. It just needed a few more washes of red to brighten up that apple and make it more tempting!

Watercolor (12" X 14")

\$48

Slow Down...



Slow Down...

Mary Kercher

"...and smell the roses." This was taken from a photograph at a butterfly garden where the flowers are more exotic than our civilized roses. I was more interested in the flowers than the turtle when I decided to paint this, but he adds a lot to the painting so I am glad I didn't leave him out. I painted this on a black canvas and had difficulty making the images bright enough so they wouldn't melt into the background.

Oil (13" X 16")

\$90

Ling Ling



Ling Ling

Mary Kercher

A trip to the zoo is not complete without a visit with the pandas although sometimes there is not much activity besides munching and crunching.

Having been to a Jean Haines watercolor workshop recently, I tried to emulate her style of letting the watercolor make the decisions of where it wants to go. You can see that I am a detail-oriented person to let that happen too much. In Jean's workshop, she wanted us to paint half a bird or animal. Well, I did succeed in letting the bottom half of Ling Ling kind of disappear into the background.

Watercolor (18.5" X 15")

\$80

Firstborn



Firstborn

Mary Kercher

The minute I saw the photograph of my cousin's daughter with her first child, I thought of the Madonna and Child. The look of adoration at this miracle of birth is the same feeling one gets at Christmas time wrapped up in the excitement of what the season is all about. The mother, Emma, is special to me also in that she was named after my beloved grandmother who was a devout Christian. For me, the connections are there for this to be a modern Madonna and Child.

Oil (22" X 26.5")

NFS

Southern Magnolia



Southern Magnolia

Mary Kercher

We had never had a Southern Magnolia tree before moving to Port Tobacco 18 years ago. I am always amazed at the beautiful leathery white blossoms and the interesting cones that develop after they are gone. I painted this from a photograph looking up at the sky. I was intrigued with the design the limbs made in the background against the blue and the subtle shades on the white flower.

Oil (19" X 15")

\$200

Feeling Wistful



Feeling Wistful

Mary Kercher

This was done in one of my classes with Peter Ulrich. I was pleased to be able to keep the watercolor “clean” and resist going over and over it as often happens!

Watercolor (20” X 23”)

\$80

Norwegian Welcome



Norwegian Welcome

Mary Kercher

In 2007, my brother and his wife, my sisters, and Barry and I took a tour of Norway – one of those things that was on our bucket list. A highlight of the tour was lunch in a Norwegian home and this is that home – certainly a welcoming entrance. The other highlight of the trip was that the tourist company was able to locate our distant cousins. After the tour was over, we were able to meet them and spend the day in another Norwegian home.

Ink and Wash (15" X 12")

\$100

Misty River



Misty River

Mary Kercher

One of the joys of living near a river is seeing it in all types of weather. This scene is from this past winter, a very cloudy, foggy, misty kind of day. Although it was grey, it wasn't without color and everything was silhouetted against the sky and water with a strange glow in the atmosphere. The Canada geese all clustered together give some life to the scene.

Oil (11" X 14")

\$80

Vantage Point



Vantage Point

Mary Kercher

Our son Steve put up this osprey nest six years ago. It took about three years until an osprey couple decided it was okay to use it, and it's been in use ever since. But once the ospreys leave for the winter, it makes a great spot for a heron to check out the local fishing.

This was a challenge in painting various levels of distance in the background.

Oil (22" X 16")

\$450

Violet Miniatures



Violet Miniatures

Mary Kercher

These monoprints were created during an MCAC workshop with Harriett Lawler and her daughter Lisa. Metal plates are painted with small leaves and flowers laid over them. These are then run through a press onto wet watercolor paper. When the plants are removed, white areas are left. Later, after the paper has dried, those same plants or others can be glued onto the surface. I purposely framed them with a wide white border and white frame and mat to emphasize their miniature size.

Monotypes (11.5" X 13.5")

\$35 or \$60 for both

Mattawoman Creek



Mattawoman Creek

Mary Kercher

This painting was started during a plein air workshop with Hugh O'Neill here at MCAC. I was most inspired by the shadow in the foreground. It seems to give a restful feeling to the rest of the scene with the brighter colors. I am not used to the fast pace of plein air painting and the painting was not finished that day. It had acquired the status with my "not sure I like it" paintings until I picked it up six months later and worked on it again.

Oil (17.5" X 14.5")

\$100

St. Thomas City Park



St. Thomas City Park

Mary Kercher

This is a small park in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Everyone is so relaxed and the chickens are enjoying their scavenging. They give the whole scene a playful element. Can you spot the tourists?

Watercolor (17.5" X 14")

\$80

Backyard Hollyhocks



Backyard Hollyhocks

Mary Kercher

This was another painting done from a photo given to me by Pat Arnold. It fit in a 16" X 20" mat, but it never looked right. I had purchased a square frame with a mat and when I tried it, it fit the picture much better. The right size and kind of mat and frame can make a world of difference.

Watercolor (21" X 21")

\$90



Information on How to Purchase a Painting

If you are interested in purchasing one of the paintings, the best way is to come to the art center.

However, if you do not live in the area and would like to purchase one, you can contact Mary Kercher at mkercher@aol.com to see if it is still available. You will need to make arrangements if your painting is to be mailed. There will be an additional charge to be worked out with her for mailing.

Sold paintings can not be removed until the end of the show.