

A SPECIAL BOOK REVIEW FOR A SPECIAL WSO MEMBER WHO IS MISSED



Self portrait by Katheryn Davis



The Art of Katheryn Davis

By Leroy Krzycki

Quiet Waters Publishing, 2011



Review by Chris Keylock Williams

Go ahead...take a walk...turn the pages and follow the path through the life and times of one of

Oregon's premier painters. You will be amazed and inspired. You will come to know this wonderful lady, her family, her favorite painting models and her skillful and emotional renderings of numerous subjects.

Katheryn was a prolific, dedicated full-time artist, attributing her talent to God. The quality of her paintings, breadth of creativity, beautiful compositions and exciting color are just part of the story. I found that, page after page, painting after painting, she had a special connection with each subject. She seemed to capture on paper the soul, essence and drama of the subject.

She created over 2,000 paintings in her lifetime. She painted in Florence, OR for decades but she had, at various times, studios in California and Maine. She painted throughout the USA, and in Portugal, Italy, Nova Scotia, Tahiti and Hawaii; she also taught and painted in Greece.

Katheryn painted primarily in

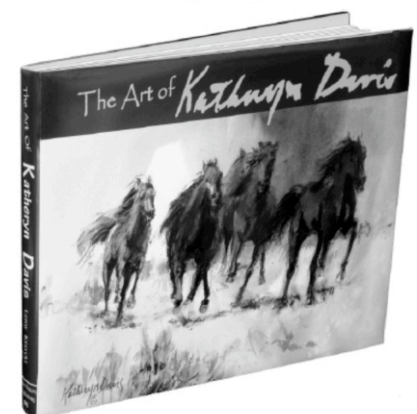
watercolor, occasionally using oil, collage and other mixed media. As a 30+ year member of WSO, she was the ninth member to reach Diamond Level (50 points) and won numerous other awards including the Katherine Wengi Memorial Award. She also exhibited with the Northwest Watercolor Society, Watercolor West and the San Diego Watercolor Society.

Portraits were one of her favorite subjects, and she always painted them from life. Family members, including her husband Leroy, were willing models. The Florence Figure Eight Portrait Club met every two weeks with wonderful, interesting models. One of my favorite paintings in the book is titled "Somber Reflections." It is of a striking young woman (her granddaughter) with strong light and dark shapes...a great composition!!

The Art of Katheryn Davis is a high quality 11 1/4 x 8 3/4 inch, hard cover book, approx. 250 pages. The book contains about 250 paintings and sketches in 17 chapters, and includes horses, flowers, children, beaches, lakes and urban scenes. She painted a number of series, two of which are included in the book. One is of a stunning group of portraits titled "Human Tapestry Series" and another is titled "Seven

(continued on next page)

The Art of Katheryn Davis
by
Leroy Krzycki



11x8-1/2 • 248 pages • full-color
• color hardcover binding

- 250 Paintings & Sketches.
- Supporting Photos & Text.
- Katheryn's comments on painting & teaching.

TO ORDER YOUR COPY

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Days of Creation” which actually took seven years to complete!

Her students were astonished when she mentioned that she tore up at least 100 failed paintings every year. She said “that’s because I experiment all the time. If you take away that risk of failure, painting isn’t what it could be and I don’t want to play.”

This beautiful book full of his wife’s art is truly the creation of Leroy Krzycki. What a gift! His life story is as fascinating as hers. A Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering led to the Navy’s largest research and development facility in the country. He headed up projects for NASA. Katheryn was the messy artist, but Leroy was the super organized engineer who had previously published a book used at MIT on small liquid-fuel rocket engines.

They were married for 22 years and during that time he framed, photographed and cataloged Katheryn's paintings. He kept records of who bought them and where they were. With the help of her five children, he had a perfect trail to follow. Now, we too, with this book, can walk in her footsteps. She lives in those pages.



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SLIDES / VIDEOS RENTAL PROGRAM



By Doyle Leek, Librarian

This past quarter we rented 35 videos, which was a very good quarter.

We have a couple of new videos in the library. They are *Design Dynamic Paintings* with Ed Labadie, and *My Vision in Watercolor* by Australian artist Herman Pekel. The Ed Labadie video was donated by Molly Freitag. It is a workshop that includes chapters on *Visual Design Theories, Elements of Design, Shapes, Values, Contrast, Focal Point, Conflict and Resolution*. It is a video that is loaded with information for artists of all levels and styles. The video by Herman Pekel consists of three ‘en plein air’ paintings that he does on site in London, and the English countryside. He utilizes traditional impressionist values, and places a strong emphasis on technique to create paintings that are full of atmosphere and light.

In the last *Watermark* we made a *Special Offer* to our members. We have not had anyone take advantage of it, so in an effort to stimulate use

of our library, we are offering it again. If any of you have a favorite painter, or are familiar with a video that we do not have in our library and you are thinking of purchasing it, please let me know. If it is a video that we think other members would be interested in, you can purchase the video and keep it for up to two months, then send it along with your receipt of purchase to me and we will reimburse you for 50% of the cost of the video, and include it in our library. In addition, remember that you will also still receive two free rentals for donating the video. With the currently reduced price of many videos, and the fact that you are receiving **50% rebate, and two free rentals**, the actual cost to you is almost negligible. So, be the first to take advantage of this terrific offer, and help improve our library.

We continue to charge only \$7 for the rental of one video, and \$5 each if you rent more than one at a time. Please give me a call, or email me with your requests.

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Mixed Media Spark Session

Ruth Armitage nws
March 1-3 2012, Oregon City
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