

Demonstator April -2015



Virginia Brooks

Virginia Brooks says "My goal is to have my paintings "take reality and make it personal". I want the viewer to feel welcomed into the scenes. I have lived in Carefree for 20 years and inspiration lies just outside my studio door. I also enjoy traveling to capture the landscapes of New England, the California coast and Europe. The paintings created while spending tranquil time painting en plein air in these unique settings then become my new collections. "I have had a privileged background in the arts. My father, first a syndicated cartoonist and then a successful marine artist, arranged for me to have the opportunity to paint with the outstanding local masters in our home town of Rockport, Massachusetts. I was fortunate to study privately with painters Paul Strisik, Helen Van Wyk, Ruth Hagstrom, Tom Nicholas and Don Stone, who lived in Rockport at that time. My family moved to Switzerland in the 1960's and I am a graduate of The American School in Switzerland, in Lugano. The sites of Europe enriched me personally and inspired me professionally. When I returned to New England I continued my studies at the Art Institute of Boston, and the Lyme (Connecticut) Academy of Fine Art. But the earlier, intense private study in Rockport and Gloucester put me solidly on the path to where I am today. My commitment as an artist translates into painting nearly every day of the week. My popular Come Paint With Me private painting lessons give me an opportunity to share what matters most to me ... "Inspiration ... how to find it and how to keep it." The best inspiration is the kind that allows you to change and grow. I work hard to remember this and I encourage my painting students to walk through that open door. It takes courage to go beyond your comfort zone, but the rewards are significant. Build on your own inspiration and you can change your art and your life. If you continue to grow as an artist your future is limitless!