

Other Settings & Scenes

SETTINGS AND DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, ENGLAND AND WHISTLER B.C. IN THE U.K. AND TASHKENT IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

(21 "Americana" Fine Artwork Titles Listed Alphabetically by State and Region - including the United Kingdom and the Former Soviet Union)

SETTINGS FROM ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES

ALASKA

Port-A-Port Alaska ~ 12.1982

This trading-post-themed painting was completed as a Christmas gift for my dear friend Jack Marshall, who was pictured on the front porch of this rustic setting with business partner, Bob McClure. Inspired by fine artwork created the late Charles Wysocki, this piece was a montage of all of the important people, places and issues facing Jack at that point in his life. That included his three great kids Robbie, David and Kelly and his business associate and long-time friend, Barbara Loomis. I'm pictured in the red woolen dress on the porch with a painting I completed for his daughter Kelly as a Christmas gift.

ARKANSAS - FAYETTEVILLE

Bob's Backwoods Bathroom ~ 2.1996

This fun little portrait of an outhouse in the "backwoods" of Arkansas was painted as a poke-fun-at-you gift for a friend named Bob - suggested by one of his colleagues who grew up in the same part of the state of Arkansas. His longtime pal swore that it wouldn't be a legitimate outhouse without the obligatory moon above the door. *Highlight* - This little painting did indeed earn the hearty belly laugh that it was intended to create!

ARIZONA - CAREFREE, MESA AND SCOTTSDALE

The English Rose Tea Room ~ 8.2007

Situated in the heart of beautiful Carefree, Arizona, the English Rose Tea Room provided authentic English cuisine in a truly unique and exquisite Victorian atmosphere. From a simple scene with Devon Cream to "The Duchess of Bedford's Formal Afternoon Tea," there was something for every discerning guest's palate. Generous attention was given to replicate the true feel of a formal English Tea Room as the owner/proprietor of this space, Jo Gemmill, spent much of her life in England. The style she created in her tea room was soft, feminine, romantic and authentic. Seated in their heart-backed chairs were longtime friends and associates Beverly, Fara and Natasha. I pictured Jo as the perfect hostess about to welcome guests. *Highlight* - Adjacent to the tea room pictured here, Jo ran a gift shop filled with dozens of authentic English teas, a huge selection of teapots and other one-of-a-kind gift items.

Desert Delight ~ 5.2008

In 2003, Doug and I purchased a cozy Mesa, AZ patio home - as they were called on the brochure about the complex known as "Mission Square at Alta Mesa." It overlooked the 17th of Alta Mesa Country Club and brought to fruition my husband's "bucket list" dream of becoming a "snow bird" when he retired. Doug attended college at Arizona State University on a golf scholarship in the early 1970s and loved Arizona's warm dry climate, so spending his winters in this part of the United States was very appealing to him. He could wear shorts year round! His folks Russ and Kathleen had both passed by 2002, so he used the money from his inheritance to purchase this charming little place built in the mid-1980s which we've been updating over the years we've had it to make it "our own." This stucco place became the setting for countless hours of fun and relaxation for both us, as well as and friends and family who frequently joined us there for the sunshine that seems to hide during winters in the Pacific Northwest. We're pictured in front of our "desert delight" - about to enjoy a barbecue with friends and neighbors. *Highlight* - A favorite activity of the women who live in our little complex was to ride laps in the evening several times around the interior on our one-speed bicycles - each one a different color.

Desert Dream House ~ 1.2002

This beautiful Southwest-style home was once the residence of my dear friend Marie Marx during her marriage to Rick Strohm. In our high school days, Marie, my sister Marilee and I waited until 5:00 p.m. every evening for Marie's mother and Marilee and my dad to finish their work days and collect us after school. Hours of conversation and sharing helped us mark our time together most afternoons at Holy Names Academy. Although our careers and personal lives drew us to opposite ends of the United States, Marie and I always stayed friends, encouraging and supporting each other. One of her dreams when she was married to Rick had been to build this handsome one-story against the backdrop of the McDowell Mountains in Scottsdale. It was a project that she and Rick work on together with their architect - and the results were pretty special. In early 2002, I visited her on her milestone 50th birthday and gave her this artwork of her home. When Doug and I relocated from Seattle back to Spokane, Marie soon came back to the Pacific Northwest as well. She continued her very successful career in Spokane, WA as a film producer specializing in videos for non-profits. *Highlight* - She was honored in 2017, winning the first place in the L.A. International Video Short category.



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Sam's Hummingbird Garden ~ 5.2019

I completed this portrait for lifelong friends John and Maria Herbert as a special surprise gift. Located just down the lane from our vacation getaway in Mesa, Arizona, it's been a delight to spend time with this couple on our visits over the years. Maria has always had a fine artistic eye as you can see from this welcoming entryway oasis she created. The also artwork featured their dearly departed kitty Sam being bothered by three hummingbirds anxious to get to their feeder. *Highlight* - John and my husband Doug were business associates for decades - and went on to become "pool pals" with their retirement.

CALIFORNIA - SAN FRANCISCO



San Francisco Sweetheart ~ 3.1986

This San Francisco, California pretty two-story was a perfect example of the wood frame Carpenter's Gothic Queen Anne style - prevalent all over the historic districts of the beloved city. I added the whimsical background and decorated this early artwork with pots of Spring tulips. I pictured myself in the garret window about to start work on a new painting. The inspiration for this piece was a photograph I found in a coffee table book celebrating ornate Victorians like this entitled "Painted Ladies."

MINNESOTA - CHOKO



Old Ove Ulvestad Farmhouse ~ 10.2009

This vintage farmhouse located in Choko, Minnesota, looks much the same as it did when it was built in 1899 by Ole Ulvestad. Notice the black buckboard buggy behind the house in the painting - a common mode of transportation at the time, especially in this rural area. Although a bit weather-beaten, the construction of the house must have been very sturdy for it to be standing well over 100 years. Only the windows and perhaps the roof of the structure appear to have been replaced. This piece was commissioned by Patricia Hampton and featured her father's entire family. Most of his eight sisters wore their "Sunday best" frocks sewn from the same red plaid bolt of fabric by their mother (back upper right) which was I am told was a very common practice in those days. Her dad was the little guy in the front row. An avid genealogist, this painting was inspired by Pat's journey to the Midwest in the summer of 2009 to see the family's Minnesota farm. She commissioned this piece as a memento and gave framed prints to her brothers and sisters as gifts at Christmastime that year. I was happy to let her use the image to highlight the memory book she compiled on her family's history.

NORTH CAROLINA - CHARLOTTE



Karen's Carolina Cottage ~ 12.1999

This San Francisco, California pretty two-story was a perfect example of the wood frame Carpenter's Gothic Queen Anne style - prevalent all over the historic districts of the beloved city. I added the whimsical background and decorated this early artwork with pots of Spring tulips. I pictured myself in the garret window about to start work on a new painting. The inspiration for this piece was a photograph I found in a coffee table book celebrating ornate Victorians like this entitled "Painted Ladies." *Highlight* - This portrait was done as a special gift for my friend and co-worker Karen at that time who had just purchased her first home.

OREGON - ASHLAND AND CANNON BEACH

Aquila Vista ~ 7.2016

Italian for "Eagle View," Aquila Vista has always enjoyed the sweeping view of Rogue Valley and Ashland, Oregon - sometimes from above the clouds. The beautiful home was built to take advantage of this in a grove of madrones, pine trees and shrubbery that bursts into bloom every spring. Note the tree house tucked into the forest above the house. The couple living there when this portrait was completed, shared, "It's been a wonderfully restful place to enjoy a glass of local wine and local wildlife (deer, elk, bears, eagles and more)." Aquila Vista was the perfect gift from Mike to Karen and they both love it! *Highlight* - For decades, Ashland has hosted its renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival and the Ashland Independent Film Festival (A.I.F.F.)



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Christmas at Aquila Vista ~ 7.2016

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Doug's Dream House ~ 3.1998

I completed this portrait of Cannon Beach's historic "Needles" log cabin lodge for my husband Doug a couple of years before we were married. The painting commemorated a wonderful Valentine's Day weekend getaway spent at this beloved seaside community on the Oregon Coast - our first vacation together. On a morning beach walk that Sunday, he shared with me that this unique rustic log beauty was his "dream house," his favorite in Cannon Beach. He even scrambled up the steep bank between the beach and the house to snap some photographs for me - which resulted in the surprise birthday artwork gift at the end of March. *Highlight* - We spent several Thanksgivings at this destination after we were married - one with his parents and two more with my mother Sally. Truly magical memories!

Fun & Sun at Haystack Rock ~ 3.1999

This seaside portrait of Cannon Beach was a special birthday gift I painted for my sweetheart Doug Ward in 1999 when we were dating our way to becoming a serious couple. A few months before in November 1998, we had vacationed with his family over the long Thanksgiving weekend at Cannon Beach, Oregon. The incredibly picturesque artists' colony and beloved getaway was a favorite of many - and Doug's family had enjoyed the autumn tradition of spending the holiday at this breathtaking destination for several years. Among the vacationers pictured in this ocean-side scene on the shore were his son Kevin and girlfriend Heather seated on the log to the right. Doug's older brother Tom and their parents Kay and Russ stood behind them. I painted Doug and me into the lower left foreground gathering driftwood for a beach fire. It was the sunny Friday after Thanksgiving and revelers were enjoying the pleasant day while a breeze tossed kites in the sky. The artwork would not have been complete without the area's signature Haystack Rock in the background.

PENNSYLVANIA - DOWNINGTON

Scott's Pennsylvania Palace ~ 10.2009

This vintage farmhouse located in Choko, Minnesota, looks much the same as it did when it was built in 1899 by Ole Ulvestad. Notice the black buckboard buggy behind the house in the painting - a common mode of transportation at the time, especially in this rural area. Although a bit weather-beaten, the construction of the house must have been very sturdy for it to be standing well over 100 years. Only the windows and perhaps the roof of the structure appear to have been replaced. This piece was commissioned by Patricia Hampton and featured her father's entire family. Most of his eight sisters wore their "Sunday best" frocks sewn from the same red plaid bolt of fabric by their mother (back upper right) which was I am told was a very common practice in those days. Her dad was the little guy in the front row. An avid genealogist, this painting was inspired by Pat's journey to the Midwest in the summer of 2009 to see the family's Minnesota farm. She commissioned this piece as a memento and gave framed prints to her brothers and sisters as gifts at Christmastime that year. I was happy to let her use the image to highlight the memory book she compiled on her family's history.

UTAH - KANAB

Historic "Little Hollywood" (Parry Lodge) ~ 4.2019

From the 1930s to the 1970s, the Parry Lodge in Kanab, Utah near the Arizona border was known as the "Heart of Little Hollywood." The Parry brothers (Chauncey, Gronway and Whit) photographed Utah's majestic countryside and then traveled to California to entice the movie industry into making Westerns (and other films) on-location in Utah. For decades, major stars like Tom Mix, John Wayne, Clark Gable, Henry Fonda, Joel McCrea, Frank Sinatra, Robert Redford and leading ladies like Dolores del Rio, Veronica Lake, Ava Gardner, Anne Bancroft, Maureen O'Hara and many others were involved with film projects. Many stayed at Parry Lodge. In 1928, the brothers purchased a New England-style farmhouse. By 1931, they had converted it into a hospitable lodge with cottages north and west of it to house the folks from California when it was time to make another movie. The entire town got into the act (some literally as extras, wranglers and stand-ins) and did everything they could to make projects run smoothly for their important guests. Westerns were "bread and butter" to Kanab - both as movies and as TV series. When Westerns were gradually replaced by more sophisticated fare, the Parry Lodge went on to serve the public as a well-preserved nostalgic reminder of earlier days - each cottage named for a film star and the lodge's dining room walls lined with autographed photos of actors who had been guests there. When I painted this portrait of Parry Lodge it was open to the public during warmer months (folks pictured in this artwork actually stayed there) - with a free nightly movie in its theater. *Highlight* - John Wayne installed a beautiful swimming pool just because he thought the place needed one!

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THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND WEST COAST

The Peggy Places ~ 8/1976

This painting was completed for my youngest sister on the occasion of her wedding to Jeff Barton in 1976. This piece is a montage neighborhood of all of the houses that Peggy had lived in up to her wedding day - two in Spokane, Washington (one on the South Hill and one in the Spokane Valley), two rentals in the University District of Seattle where she attended the University of Washington, our family's lake cabin at Hayden Lake, and the house she was going to move into after her marriage in the Walnut Creek area of California. Before finally settling in Spokane, Washington, the couple spent several years in Danville, California and in Honolulu, Hawaii. She and her husband, Jeff were pictured in the driveway of their new home in California as newlyweds.

UNITED KINGDOM SETTINGS FROM CANADA & ENGLAND

CANADA, BRITISH COLUMBIA - WHISTLER

Welcome Whistler Wonderland ~ 12.2009

Whistler - what a magical place! When I painted this piece several years ago, the vacation home near Whistler Village was owned by the extended Orrico family. As evidenced by the photo here, the family made some changes to the front of it after I completed this original piece. In 2000, At the time, we had been guests of Mark Orrico whose family (wife Janis and daughters Stephanie and Alison) was pictured waving to Doug and me in the lower left. Also part of the scene to the right were Mark's brother Brent, his wife Vicki and their two children Christopher and Frankie. Highlight - this lovely setting was where Doug proposed to me at midnight on New Year's in 2000.

Winter Wedding at Whistler ~ 13.2017

This portrait of beautiful Whistler Village in British Columbia was completed to honor the marriage of some very dear friends of ours, Michele Rostron and Brent Orrico. Brent Orrico has been one of my husband's best and closest buddies since childhood years growing up in the Clyde Hill neighborhood of Bellevue, Washington. Brent's extended family owned a vacation home in Whistler, British Columbia for many years. Thus, this iconic setting was prettiest place that Doug's ski-loving pal could have chosen for his small winter wedding ceremony. As pictured here in this painting, the marriage was held outdoors near the skating rink, and yes, Brent asked that I paint Doug and me into the scene among the ice skaters as unfortunately, it was impossible for us to join the couple. The crisp evening was lovely with light snow dusting Whistler Village. I pictured Brent and his fiancé Michele sharing their vows with his brother Dean officiating on Saint Patrick's Day, 2017.

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THE FORMER SOVIET UNION - UZBEKISTAN

The Children of Tashkent ~ 2.1988

As I mentioned above in 1988, I journeyed to the former U.S.S.R. with a group of about 25 Americans from Seattle on a good will trip. Tashkent had been chosen as a Seattle "Sister City" a number of years before - and Mayor Charles Royer's wife had grown up in this part of the Soviet Union. This community was one of three destinations we visited - the others being Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). In Tashkent, my friends and I made friends with a group of local folks who welcomed us with open arms. We were lucky enough to spend an entire day at one of Tashkent's day schools for children where we were entertained with dancing, singing and poetry readings in surprisingly fluent English by the youngsters. This amazed us all as our visit had been completely impromptu. I painted the Russian-style classroom where each prominently displayed a portrait of Lenin - reminding me of the United States in the 1950s with George Washington's portrait on the wall as well. Unique too was nap time during the school day there. Taking a nap actually meant sleeping in a bed where pillows were decoratively shaped into pyramids. Highlight - This painting of the school children was also hung in a gallery in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Click on my Biography page for more information on this fascinating unique trip.

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October Revolution Celebration Parade ~ 2.1988

During my two-week journey to three destinations in what was once the former U.S.S.R. in October and November 1988, our group of assorted travelers was incredibly lucky that our trip coincide with the annual celebration of the 1917 October Revolution (the overthrow of the Tsarist royal form of government in Russia). This painting pictured the parade marchers, a handsome float and some of the visiting Americans in our group. The color that day everywhere was "red," the hue most associated with "power." This was certainly not an accident, although "Perestroika" and the open-minded notion of "coming together" was at its height as Gorbechov was in office. I'm pictured in a red sweater standing next to trip organizer (in sunglasses), Ron King. *Highlight* -This original artwork was hung in a gallery in Tashkent, Uzbekistan at the invitation of a museum curator who had befriended us all during our visit to the city.

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