

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Terry Genesen-Becker

Somehow this nationally acclaimed, gifted artist and patient mentor has avoided the *Artist Spotlight* during the 34 years that she's taught watercolor painting here. Yet it's appropriate and important to acknowledge the influence and reach of this fine artist. As teacher, exhibitor, juror and national award-winner, Terry is a consistent presence and contributor adding vibrancy and energy to the Minnesota art community.

A dedicated teacher here and, through the years, at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), the Compleat Scholar Program at the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Museum of Art School, Minneapolis Community College, Grand Marais Art Colony and Rochester Art Center, Terry Genesen-Becker has touched hundreds of lives. Many of her students have gone on to become instructors themselves. Her artwork, which often mirrors her somewhat quirky sense of irony, has been exhibited extensively in Minnesota, the Midwest and beyond. Terry has been recognized by leading watercolor societies at the state, regional and national level and featured in *Watercolor* magazine. It is a career worth honoring as she intends to retire from active duty in 2015.

True to form, rather than speak of herself, Terry is eager to promote the accomplishments of her students, gratified by the different directions their journeys take and the diversity of the artwork they create.

"Terry provides helpful ideas while encouraging me to develop my own style, which has made me feel confident enough to experiment and take off in an abstract direction," says Connie Scott.

"She stresses accurate drawing, coupled with pleasing colors," says Pamela Gehlen. "Laughter is a part of her teaching."

Judy Hostnick appreciates the community

that Terry builds in class, how she meets students where they're at and encourages them to have fun and grow.

"Her intellect and whimsy are evident in each of her wonderfully crafted pieces," says Terry Saario. "Terry does not attempt to create clones of her own distinctive watercolor style. She prods, cajoles, nudges, inspires, instructs, encourages and shares the ups, downs and joys of watercolor painting."

Marjorie Modell has been taking painting lessons at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts since she was a teenager accompanying her mother. She appreciates how Terry takes her students seriously. "As we go through our phases, she has valuable comments and suggestions to help us explore whatever it is we are trying to do."

It was 20 years ago that Terry wouldn't budge on her requirement to complete *Watercolor Basics* for Anne Bendt, who relocated here from Wisconsin. "I was extremely excited to have such a valuable resource nearby and planned to take full advantage of classes offered," says Anne. "Terry's depth of knowledge is amazing. She has found the artist in all of us while simultaneously creating life-long friendships."

"Our program is stronger because of her decades with us!" says Executive Director Roxanne Heaton. "Her classes are consistently some of the first to fill which speaks to the quality of educational experience she offers."

There will be big shoes to fill, but Terry insists that change is a good thing. Watercolor students will continue to thrive as new artists share their passion for the form.

A heartfelt thank you, Terry, for all you have shared and accomplished at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts.



Nesting Season by Terry Genesen-Becker



The False Spring by Terry Genesen-Becker



Hecho en Mexico by Terry Genesen-Becker



Watercolor by Marjorie Modell



Watercolor by Anne Bendt



Watercolor by Connie Scott



Watercolor by Pamela Gehlen



Watercolor by Terry Saario