

PHYLLIS NORTHUP

ARTIST STATEMENT



Recognizing the creative spirit in my young soul, my grandmother gave me a set of oils when I was ten years old. Thus began my love affair with all things art! My BA in Fine Arts was just the beginning of a lifetime of learning and growing as an artist and art teacher.

Having married a National Park Ranger I have had the good fortune to move all over the country and live in some of our nation's most spectacular places. My "backyards" have included the soaring majesty of the Tetons, the ever changing, awe inspiring Grand Canyon, the stark beauty of the Big Bend desert, the beaches of Cape Hatteras, the flowing water and limestone cliffs of the Buffalo River, the misty ridges of the Smoky Mountains, and the pristine jewel of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where the spirit of Lake Superior inspired me on a daily basis. The adventure continues as we return to the beautiful mountains of Shenandoah National Park, where our journey began many years ago.

I am an avid outdoorswoman, and almost always have a camera with me when I am out hiking, kayaking, biking, and skiing. Although I sometimes will paint or sketch outside, I more often will paint in my studio from the photographs I take while out exploring the natural world. In addition to painting the larger vistas, I really enjoy the intimate landscapes, capturing the beauty in the small and magical world that is all around us and under our feet, but mostly unseen. My hope with these paintings is to bring awareness to these wonders and encourage people to see more of what is around them!

I have such a collection of images in my mind and soul from living in all of these spectacular places; I will never lose my passion for attempting to capture the essence of their beauty and spirit. Nature recharges my soul, and I hope that both my art and my teaching will help others to see and be open to the beauty of the natural world that surrounds us all. Awareness and appreciation will hopefully lead to the desire to protect, preserve and care for this fragile planet we dwell on!

