

About the Artist

I grew up outside of Washington, D.C. where my first commitment to Art came when, in high school, I left Sidwell Friends to attend The Suitland Center for the Arts. Whether I knew it or not, my course was set at that point. My next move was to Manhattan, a choice influenced by the offer of a full four-year scholarship to The Cooper Union School of Art.

As it turned out, New York in the 90's was perhaps not the *best* fit for a lover of plein-air painting. While critiques focused on whether painting was a dead art form, I would sneak up onto the rooftops to paint the sky- the closest to nature I could get. When I was discovered by maintenance crews my fate hung in the balance- until a sympathetic soul granted me a special pass to access the rooftops instead of expelling me. I traveled abroad, taught, interned, experimented with cerebral art, and graduated with honors- but soon after graduation I left New York. I was happy to have been there and happy to leave.

I returned to D.C. to open a painting studio on Capitol Hill and returned to painting outdoors again. Though I had commissions, sales, and my first solo show in D.C, I had begun to wonder what it would be like to live in the countryside.

When I discovered Rappahannock County, Virginia I knew I had found a country place that someone from the city could call home. Never mind that I didn't know anyone there, I posted a sign at the local health-food market and was soon living in an old farmhouse. The house was heated with a wood stove and situated on a flood plane between two rivers. Birdsong, astounding verdancy, and the smell of the air itself held me captivated! I had never felt so alive, I had found my place in the world.

Today I still live in Rappahannock County, no longer on my own, but with a wonderful husband and two fantastic sons. From this quiet place I've continued to teach, complete commissions, and to show and sell my paintings. "Dynamic balance" is the phrase I use for what I am seeking in both my artwork and my life. The effort is ongoing. As circumstances shift balance must be found in new ways. The constant in my life is that I will always continue to make art. Whether the world takes note or not- I will make the work, share the work, and start all over again to create new work.

To me painting from life is as timeless as making bread. The craft may be ancient but if it is made today from natural ingredients it will offer nourishment to all who share in it.

N O R A H A R R I N G T O N

*"Plein Air painting is as much about what you leave out as it is about what you put in.
As in poetry an experience is being distilled into an impression- there should be room left to imagine."*



SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

R.H. Ballard Gallery/ Washington, VA - 2012
The Inn at Little Washington/ Washington, VA - 2006, 2005
The Alicia Group Design Gallery/ Woodstock, VA - 2004
Thistle Tree Forge Gallery/ Culpeper, VA -2003
Carriage House Studios/ Washington, DC - 1998

SELECTED TWO ARTIST SHOWS

White Canvas Gallery/ Richmond, VA - 2007
Packing Shed Gallery/ Washington, VA - 2001
58 High Street /Hastings, England -1996

SELECTED JURIED, GALLERY MEMBER, & GROUP SHOWS

Chincoteague Cultural Center/ Chincoteague, VA - 2023
Rappahannock County Library/ Washington, VA - 2022
RH Ballard Fine Art/ Washington, VA - 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
Chaney Gallery/ Annapolis, MD - 2013
Berkley Gallery/ Warrenton, VA - 2003, 2004
Art Institute & Gallery/ Salisbury, MD - 2002
Corcoran Gallery of Art/ Washington, DC - 1993

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

formerly represented by:

R.H.Ballard Fine Art/ Washington, VA
Caulfield Gallery/ Washington, VA
White Canvas Gallery/ Richmond, VA
Longview Gallery/ Sperryville, VA
The Berkley Gallery/ Warrenton, VA

TEACHING

Private Plein Air Painting Instructor; Rappahannock County, VA- 1998-present
Substitute Associate Professor, Lord Fairfax Community College; Middletown, VA- 2009
Visiting Artist Instructor, Wakefield Country Day School; Huntly, VA- 2009
Drawing Instructor, Rappahannock Elementary School/ C.A.S.E. Program; Wash, VA- 2000
Drawing Instructor, The Saturday Program, School for Inner-City Teens; New York, NY- 1995

INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Geneva, Switzerland
Frankfurt, Germany
Hastings, England
Venice, Italy
Valencia, Spain

NOTABLE AWARDS

Vena T. Carol Foundation - 1997
The United States House of Representatives - 1993
Maryland Institute College of Art - 1993
The New York Foundation for the Arts - 1993
Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation - 1992

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association