

## Nedra Smith

Partly Cloudy

Oil

22" x 30"

### **Nedra Smith Bio**

I grew up on my family's farm in the Great Plains of Nebraska which led to a lifelong love of the outdoors. My early education was in a one room school house where Friday was dedicated to art, my favorite day of the week. My love of the outdoors and art will always be a part of my life.

I chose to pursue an education at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. At that time GW was one of the only universities teaching a classical approach to art education. Studying with live models, learning muscles and bones, working with the materials and studying the techniques used by the old masters, this was the basis of GW's curriculum.

Living in DC while attending GW I spent hours in the museums. During that experience my mind was opened even further to the world of art and solidified my desire to make art a part of my life.

After college I worked as a graphic artist and art director for 20 years but the desire to paint never faded. I finally had the opportunity to go to Chengdu China and study figure painting with a friend and master painter, He Gong, who taught at Sichuan University. This was a turning point.

Returning to the states I was introduced to plein-air painting by studying with Kevin McPherson. My love of the outdoors and art was a perfect match.

I'm happiest outdoors with a brush in hand."

### **Artist Statement**

I am fortunate to be able to spend time each day improving my artistic skills and knowledge. There is nothing more rewarding than time spent in the creative zone and the more I paint the more I realize how much more there is to learn.

I paint in all genres but landscape is currently my favorite and Rappahannock is the perfect place for combining for my love of nature and plein-air painting.