

Watercolors and Small Works

Small oil studies and watercolors depicting landscapes, wildlife and botanical subjects

Norfolk artist Leslie Watkins exhibits small paintings based on direct observation of nature at the Norfolk Library. The exhibition will be on display through December 31, and all paintings are available for purchase.

Art as Meditation, or is it Meditation as Art?

"I am a painter who loves nature, or maybe a naturalist who likes to paint. A student of color, design, light and shadow, and their interaction with texture and form. I take pleasure in contemplating nature at length and in depth. I devote time to learning the construction of a duck's wing, the mechanism of a hawk's talon, understanding the patterns on an owl, depicting the sheen on an orchid leaf. Studying one flower petal overlapping another. Watching the golden light creeping up the trunks of the trees as the sun goes down. Capturing the dawn exploding across the sky with a palette knife. Anticipating a light effect on the mountain or clouds. Painting willows on a hot summer day or retreating into the forest to paint a woodland interior. How to paint the atmosphere, making the invisible visible. Sometimes art does not render completion, or elaborate compositions. Sometimes it's the result of close observation as in meditation. Sometimes it's just "being" and blending colors with a brush, watching one pigment melt into another. This is an exhibit of "studies" – little pictures made during close observation, working out details, and being still."

About Leslie Watkins

Leslie Watkins has exhibited at The Lyman Allyn Art Museum, The National Arts Club, The Salmagundi Club, The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and The Lyme Art Association. Her work has appeared in several magazines, on book covers, and as postage stamps. Watkins has taught art classes at the Lyme Art Association, the Washington Art Association, and the The Berkshire Botanical Garden. She offers plein air painting workshops in the Berkshires and NWCT. For more information please visit:

www.lesliewatkins.com