



Artist Statement

Debra Howard

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Debra Howard has been an artist and adventurer her entire life. She spent her childhood in Miami, Florida, where she first discovered her love affair with color, light, painting, and sailing. She studied at Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, and began her art career in San Francisco, where she opened her first illustration studio. After 17 years as a successful illustrator, she closed her studio to concentrate on fine art painting. “I realized that the career I had found so satisfying was being taken over by the computer. I missed the feel of the brush on canvas.”

In response, she provisioned her Peterson 44 sailboat with art supplies, her old dog and her 4 year old daughter and began cruising. After almost 27 years of travelling, sailing and painting aboard, *Ling Ling*, she has come ashore and has turned her creative focus to painting the Eastern Shore.

Her introduction to the Eastern Shore came by way of Tangier Island. A tiny, remote island in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. She lived there for 3 years, as the artist-in-residence and then as the Executive Director for the Tangier History Museum. She accomplished the task of painting a painting a day to document the seasons and changes on this disappearing island. Her work was featured in *The American Scholar Magazine*. The experience changed her; “I paint now with more energy, passion and immediacy,” Howard says, “which coincidentally reflect the very nature of the island. The island is raw.”

After years of travelling and painting from a sailboat she switched from sailing to camping. “I now travel from April to November exploring and participating in Plein Air events in my little RV trailer. Debra has been juried into Plein Air competitions in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Maine and Virginia and is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association. She was voted Best Visual Artist in Charleston, SC in 2007 and was the 2016 Artist-in-resident for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. She now resides in Crisfield, Maryland and Omena, Michigan in the summer.

Represented by

Atrium Art Gallery, 61 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401 843-973-3300

South Street Art Gallery, 5 South Street | Easton, MD 21601 410-770-8350

Carmen’s Art Gallery, 14550 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD 410-326-2549

The Art League of Ocean City, 502 94th St., Ocean City, MD 21843 410-524-9433

DEBRA HOWARD

oil painter

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Selected Solo Exhibitions

Carmen's Art Gallery, Solomons Island, MD - "Fragrance in Art" - March 2017
Ocean City Art League, Ocean City, MD - "The Language of Color" - May 2016
South Street Art Gallery, Easton, MD - "New Voices", 2015
Atrium Art Gallery, Queen Street, Charleston, SC - Land Sea and Sky - August 2013
Ebb Tide Gallery, Mt. Pleasant, SC - Islands - July 2012
Tangier History Museum, Tangier, VA - A Year on Tangier - 2010-2011
Carmen's Gallery, Solomons Island, MD - Surrounded by Water- 2010
Fish or Cut Bait Gallery, Edisto Island, SC - Winter Landscapes - December 2007
Fish or Cut Bait Gallery, Edisto Island, SC - Silent Night, Holy Night - November 2006
Huyler House, Dewees Island - journeys on my way home - October, 2006
Women's Center of Charleston - Women of the New South - 2004
African American Culture Center, Charlotte, NC - African American Influences - 2003
The Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County, Camden, SC - Places from my imagination - 2003
City Gallery of Charleston, Women of the Low country - 2002
Sandpiper Gallery, Sullivan's Island, SC - Summer Series - 2002
Gallery 32 Vendue, Charleston, SC - People from my travels - 2001

Selected Group Exhibitions

Ocean City Art League, Ocean City, MD - "Shared Visions" - January 2016
South Street Art Gallery, Easton, MD - "The Artistic Process", 2015
MD Art @ University of MD College Park - 2014
Maryland Federal of Art, Annapolis, MD - Strokes of Genius - 2014
Ocean City Art League, Ocean City, MD - juried exhibits 2013-2015
Carmen's Gallery, Solomons Island, MD - Plein Air - 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014
Carmen's Gallery, Solomons Island, MD - Color Theory- 2012
Carmen's Gallery, Solomons Island, MD - Views from the Boat- 2009
City Gallery at Waterfont Park, Charleston, SC - Furry Affair - 2008
Phoebus Art Gallery, Hampton, VA - Life on the Chesapeake Bay - 2008
Peninsula Fine Arts Center PFAC, Newport News, VA - Biennial 2008
City Gallery at Waterfont Park, Charleston, SC - Furry Affair - 2007
City Gallery at Waterfont Park, Charleston, SC - Furry Affair - 2006
Edward Dare Gallery, Charleston, SC - Opening - 2005
Fish or Cut Bait Gallery, Edisto Island, SC - New Beginnings - 2005
Spencer Gallery, Charleston, SC - New Works - 2004
Church Studio and Gallery, Charleston, SC - Storms in Life - 2004
Arts United for Davidson County, NC - Body Languages - 2003
The Art Collection at Town Center, Mt. Pleasant, SC - Landscapes - 2001
Art Center Gallery of St. Simons - On going - 1999

Plein Air

Mountain Maryland Plein Air 2016
Westfield Plein Air 2016
Paint it! Ellicott City 2016
Solomons Plein Air - 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015
Ocean City Plein Air - 2013, 2014, 2015
Onancock Plein Air - 2014
Chincoteague Plein Air - 2015
Crisfield on Canvas - 2015

Selected Publications National Public Radio
Save the Bay Magazine, Winter 2015
The American Scholar Magazine, Winter 2012
Post & Courier
Charleston Magazine

Carolina Arts
Charleston City Paper
The Press and Standard
Cumberland Times

Awards Paint it! Ellicott City 2016 - Awarded The Gino Award (Grand Prize)
Mountain Maryland Plein Air 2016 - "Best Nocturne"
Solomons Plein Air 2015, "Artistic Divergence Award"
Crisfield on Canvas 2015, First place
Ocean City Art League, juried shows & plein air event, 1st. place, 3rd place, honorable mentions 2013-2015
Solomons Plein Air 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 honorable mentions
Peninsula Fine Arts Center PFAC, Newport News, VA - Biennial 2008
Best of Charleston, City Paper, Voted Best Local Visual Artist - 2007
Cooper River Bridge Run Design Competition - 2006
Juried State-wide art show, Museum of Art Spartenburg, SC - 2003
Spoleto Festival Juried Art Show - 2003
Juried Artist Guild Show, Folly Beach, SC - 2002

Collections Private collections in almost every state in the U.S.
Tangier History Museum
Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina, "State Record"
Ringling School of Art

Education Ringling School of Art, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1977
Tour of Europe's great art museums, galleries and cathedrals in a study program with Reader's Digest - 1974
Sea School - 100 ton Masters USCG Captain's License with Sail Auxiliary

Teaching Ocean City Art League, Workshops in Figure Study, Oil and Acrylic Painting, 2016, 2017
Crisfield Public Library, Watercolor Painting and Drawing - 2014
Carmen's Art Gallery, Color Theory and Landscape painting - 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017
Holly Grove Christian School, K-12 - 2014
Executive Director for the Tangier History Museum, - 2012

Residencies Artist-in-Residence, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Sept. - Oct. 2016
Artist-in-Residence, South Carolina State Parks - March 2016
Artist-in-Residence, Tangier Island, VA - August 2010 - 2011
Artist in Residence, Poinsett State Park, SC - 2001

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