

I have birds in wood block prints, but not so much in finished drawings or paintings. It makes me wonder why. They seem like mystical creatures, every one of them. The plants are the same in my view but they don't have eyes that look into yours as you look into theirs. We must, I feel, protect them. We can learn from them if we open our minds and hearts.

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STEPHEN GATES
STILLWATER

In all of my photos, I am looking to learn something from the subject. It is an art of observation, a way of looking at things. Looking for something new in the ordinary and like our animal friends, trusting my instincts. Not everything has a rational explanation, like a sixth sense, you just feel it. I learn much from the animal world. Like people, animals display a myriad of behaviors and feelings. There is much to understand, in both other animals and within ourselves. In fact, I wonder if some animals may well feel more intensely than we do? Perhaps with their lack of ego, they experience a more vivid sense of freedom than we every can. I have personally known some animals to show more empathy and sympathy than certain humans I have met. So be curious, savor the moment and form unexpected alliances. Namaste - all creatures great and small.

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M. JANA THORNTON
TERRACE

I've been involved with art all my life, In High School, I took a correspondence course with Art Instruction Inc. Later, I took classes in oil and acrylics and watercolor, my favorite Medium is watercolor, because of the spontaneity of the medium. My paintings hang In many private and public locations. I've had several solo shows, won numerous awards In various shows, including best of shows. Have been accepted in the fine art division of the state Fair twice. Being an artist is an ongoing journey!

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PEARL ZIEGENHAGEN
CLEMENTS



SANDY O'BRIEN
GLENWOOD

Sandy O'Brien's love of nature has inspired her to create paintings of living creatures as small as an ant crawling on a raspberry bush, and as large as a 2,000 pound ox. Sandy uses watercolor or pastel as her painting media and always starts with the eyes to capture the life-essence of her subject. Over the years she has completed several commissions of people's pets and she is now expanding her subject matter to human portraits.

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Born 1924, Vern as most people called him was a nature lover. Vern painted numerous paintings of wildlife. It is what he knew and devoted his life to. This is a small sampling of what Vern would work on. He was also a finalist in the Duck Stamp competitions.

Vern was from Parkers Prairie MN



EDWIN L. JENSEN
PARKERS PRAIRIE