



*And the Birds Sang, pastel*



*Virga Over Sandoval County, pastel*



*Radiant Glow*

### **Katherine Irish, IAPS/MC, PSA, PSNM/DP, APAA/DP, PSWC, PSSW**

Katherine knew she was an artist at an early age, drawing and painting throughout high school. Katherine majored in art at DePauw University from 1971-1975. She studied with Stephen Greene at the Tyler School of Art in Rome in 1973. She also interned with Willard Midgette in New York in 1974. Katherine returned to New York in 1976, and received a master's degree in art therapy from Pratt Institute. During this time, she painted and drew many of the people she encountered in a shelter, on the subways and streets of New York. She befriended members of the Street Painters, including Myron Heise, and attended art critiques in the Bowery. She took art classes at the School of Visual Arts, Pratt Institute, and the Art Students League. She was a frequent visitor to Europe and New York's many magnificent art museums and galleries. Katherine's first one-woman show was in New York at the Marie Pellicone Gallery in 1982. Absorbing works by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Appel, Van Gogh, Monet, Turner, Rothko, Michelangelo and Botticelli was formative.

Katherine's desire to live rurally and paint New Mexico landscapes grew after a painting trip to New Mexico in 1981. She moved to Taos, New Mexico in 1982 and began to paint skiescapes. She studied with Marc Bergerson, a New York artist from 1985-1990. She also exhibited in galleries in Taos, Scottsdale and participated in many of the juried and invitational shows in Taos, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Art Rental Gallery. Katherine was the curator for the first three *Spirit in Art* shows held during the Taos Spring Arts Celebration in 1985, 1986 and 1987.

When Katherine's son, Nathan, was born in 1988, Katherine began a hand painted box business. She sold her hand painted boxes across the United States, Canada and Sweden from 1989-1997. In 1997, she earned a Masters in Counseling and works as a therapist in private practice and as a school counselor.

Katherine began working seriously in pastels in 2002. She continues to find inspiration in New Mexico landscapes, the cobalt blue skies and brilliant reds and greens found in plants and geological formations. Sunsets incorporate many abstract patterns as well as beautiful layers of color. She thinks of herself as a "Skywatcher". Katherine has always thought of herself as a colorist. She has been interested in the portrayal of light through color. She utilizes museum quality sanded pastel papers and soft pastels.

Katherine is an award-winning artist who regularly participates in national juried and invitational shows. She was awarded Masters Circle by the International Association of Pastel Societies and Distinguished Pastelist by the New Mexico Pastel Society. She is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, the Pastel Society of the West Coast, the Pastel Society of the Southwest, and a Member of Excellence of the Southeastern Pastel Society. Katherine joined Albert Handell's Mentor Program in 2013 and has appreciated the growth that she has experienced under his tutelage. Her work was on the cover and featured in the August 2015 issue of the *Pastel Journal*.