Artist’s Statement.......................Lee Ricks

I believe that to be an accomplished visual artist requires, more than anything else, an insatiable desire to create. I don’t know exactly why, but I have had that desire since about age 4 or 5 when my favorite pastime became drawing. Encouragement from two aunts who were both school teachers stoked my passion for art and once I got past a certain point that was what I most enjoyed doing. Acceptance to a major juried show or the winning of an award has that same effect on me even today.

After over 50 years and thousands of paintings, I still get a rush out of the excitement that happens when paint and water meet on fine paper. My goal is to capture the beauty of sunlight and shadows in transparent watercolor, with a special emphasis on color. No matter how long I practice my art, that carrot is still dangling out there: the best painting I have ever done. At age 80 plus I still don’t feel I am too old to learn a few new tricks, and will jump at the opportunity to try.

It is wonderful to have something enjoyable and challenging to get up for every morning. As long as I am able, I plan to keep pushing a puddle of paint around on paper, searching for that elusive “best one yet”. If I can bring a little joy and excitement into someone else’s life in the process, so much the better...and we both have benefitted.

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