

Another fabulous and VERY Lovely Year!



The year 2006 started off wearing pink and a blonde wig for New Years. Little did I know, the upcoming year would be twice as nice. The Hilton Head Art Academy class teaching plein air painting got us all into the winter weather of Hilton Head Island.

Paintings bloomed in the fields and one in April made the cover of pink Magazine put "Venus Goes H2o" on the April cover of the magazine. May was a trip to Water Island, in the US Virgin Islands. From then on, everything became twice as nice. I added another published painting that has ME as the Model! Last year was "Good and Plenty Marilyn" and "Candace being Candlish on Canvas." This year I am "Venus Goes H2o". I owe so many thanks to my patrons, my husband and always God from Whom all of my blessings flow.



During May at Providence Point on Water Island, I was not alone. Roland Gomez led a photography workshop using professional beauty and fashion models. "Miss April", Playboy's playmate, Holley Dorrough was among the models. Feeling like "April's Aphrodite's Published Chicks," we posed together, each with our publications in hand. What a feeling to share a moment with Holley, a beautiful young accomplished model from Alabama half my age. I felt the Boston School was just kicked up a notch with so much naked beauty on the rocks and pool. I prayed I could add a painting of "Venus" rising from the water to my collection.



On Water Island, I painted 2 sisters, ages 3 and 4 years old. I have painted each of the 5 children in this family over the past 15 years. Each painting features the child at about the same age. This is a very special collection of paintings that makes this

patron, a man once asked to start the Soviet Union's stock market and the creator of America's first e-commerce business, the Boston Computer Exchange, which is very special to me. Instead of working for the Russians, he wrote a children's story, "The Dream Wizard Conquers His NightMare." It is a book full of dichotomies for children and adults set in a dream-like setting that he asked me to illustrate in 1999. This year the first complete set of 25 illustrations was completed. It has taken a long time - on average three illustrations a year - to complete. But we have a book coming and I did all the illustrations!





By May, my very talented helper Alex Sineath, who assisted me for 4 years, graduated valedictorian of his Hilton Head High senior class. He started helping me as a freshman managing my studio twice a week after school. He is now a freshman at Davidson. It's twice as nice for Alex to ask to come work for me again his summer break.



By June, I was in the Northeast for Boston's Fresh Paint event, as challenging as ever with the New England downpours and endless showery weather. The paint day, thank goodness, was clear. I painted a scene that I scouted the year before, on Yawkey Way. Prepared for rain, I set up under the entrance of a beer pub, ready for rain. Traffic, flags, signs, banners, people - that's what I was after. "Yawkey Way" memorabilia brought me the second highest bid for the event, \$2600. The winning bid went to Gail Bassett for her dramatic yellow sky painting with green lawns and green trees for \$4400! This was just the opposite of my Red Sox street scene.



Then I was off on a cruise ship to Alaska and I got to be roommate with the middle child of my Virgin Island family. It was another "Twice as Nice" experience. I did one oil painting and a dozen paint markers on the ship. What a way to go with a large family.



The Colony Hotel was "Twice as Nice" this summer to ask for many giclées of paintings I have painted of their beautiful environmental hotel over looking the Atlantic Ocean, their own beach, the Kennebunkport Beach, the Kennebunk River, Kennebunk Beach, and Mt Agamenticus, not to mention all the beautiful flower beds. Their secret to success - the hotel is owned and run by thoughtful horticulturalists.

During the summer I found myself twice a week in the studio for a life portrait commission. It has been a great honor to be asked to paint an Episcopal priest in my studio. "Chad" has retired to Hilton Head Island after an impressive career as President of the College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in DC, then the rector to Christ Church in West Chester County, Bronxville NY for which the portrait was commissioned. This is Rev. Charles J. Minife's "Twice as Nice" experience to be asked to sit for a portrait. I feel very blessed. All Saints, our church, gave us the parish hall to share the final portrait with our congregation before it was sent to Christ Church.



By August, a family that has faithfully vacationed on the island for generations surfaced. The mothers that once vacationed here with their mothers (now grandmothers) commissioned me to paint their children, the new grandchildren. The paintings were sent, surprisingly enough, to Westchester County, Bronxville, NY, making it "Twice as Nice" for Bronxville in one summer.



A "Twice as Nice" opportunity to go to Boston again happened the end of September. The Massachusetts Horticultural Cultural Society in Wellesley planned a new event with Susan Ritchay, former director of the Copley Society of Boston. For the first time, MHCS hosted a plein air event "Paint Day". It turned out to be \$7000, the highest bid I have seen for a plein air event and the highest cash award for the most outstanding painting of \$5000. Jonathan Fairbanks was the judge. I give Jonathan a lot of credit to my being granted permission to paint First Lady Barbara Bush in 1990. At the time he was Curator of Decorative Arts for the Museum of Fine Arts and on the Committee for the Preservation of the White House that "checked me out" to paint the portrait. It was wonderful to see him again with plein air painters.



It was twice as nice to be asked by a new groom to paint a very large painting like my "Fair Women" paintings of his new bride. The painting "Sea of Knowledge" now hangs graciously in the library of their home. The couple gave the most beautiful New Year's Party and it was an honor to be amongst the guests of the Low Country.

Before the year closed, I traveled to Water Island again, this time to paint the scenery for the visitors. This collection of original plein air paintings are on Water Island and are for sale as well as reproduction giclées on paper or canvas.



This year has been "Twice as Nice," and may we have many more together with God from Whom all of my blessings flow.

Do I hear a second!

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