

# Carol McArdle Art Newsletter

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## Summer Swelter!

I hope you are staying cool during the summer heat! The sweltering heat means that most of my work is being done in the studio, painting from my photographs.



creative in Adobe Photoshop. I use the computer like a sketchbook. It is wonderful what can be done with software like Photoshop and I use it to

It is important to me that I use my own reference photographs to paint from. A lot of skill and talent goes into photography (that I do not claim to possess!) and it is an art in itself. To copy another artist's work does not sit right with me. I may very rarely use another's photographs as references but when I do I steer as far away as possible from their captured image and create my own.

Out of hundreds of photos I may get a couple of good ones that I want to paint from. I spend a long time picking the best of my photos. Then I refine my pickings again (and again, and again). When I have found what I am looking for I then get

change and manipulate my photos. My goal is to plan the composition and all other components of the painting before jumping in. Some of the things I have to plan are the proportions; the size; the values, (darks and lights); the placement of objects; focus points; the flow of a painting; how much sharp detail vs less detail; the color scheme and more.

Technology has become a part of the painting process even for artists who work in traditional styles and subjects. It is rare to find an artist who is so steeped in the traditional that they reject using some of the new tools available today.

Working from photos has its pros and cons, just as working outside on location

*"A  
Painting  
is a  
Feeling  
Seen"*  
Carol  
McArdle

does. I must say though I am longing for the cooler days of fall when I can once again venture out and do some plein air painting in some of our local beauty spots. For now I will get a few outdoor painting sessions and only in the early or late hours when it is marginally cooler!

I keep promising myself that one of these years I will make time to travel to some of our more northern states to paint out during the summer. Usually that would guarantee me some cooler weather but maybe not this year with all the record heat! So for now it is back to the studio for me with my computer in tow and only a few plein air paintings until fall.

***Update:***

***Since starting this newsletter a couple of weeks ago my wish has been granted thanks to one of my customers! Read about the new development below!***



["Whispering Waters" Oil on canvas 14" x 11" \\$550](#)

## Art Walk at The Promenade

There was a good crowd at the Art Walk and I had planned on taking some photos to share with you but it got so busy that before I knew it the event was over and I had forgotten!

I do have photos of our newly painted space, one just painted, one of the area I paint in with "Pelican Ascension" in progress (see finished



painting below) and one photo of the rear room where Ellen does her pottery on the wheel with art installed in the walls.





[“Pelican Ascension” Oil on canvas 24” x 36”](#)

**New Development since  
starting this  
newsletter...**

## **Colorado Paintings Coming Soon!**

For a couple of years I have been dreaming of traveling to some other states to capture different landscapes and wildlife in my paintings. I would be happy to paint Florida for ever but there is beauty in nature everywhere and would like some more variety in my paintings. I have wondered if

people would like to let me stay in their homes in exchange for a painting. I just was not sure how to ask someone I barely know or did not know at all.

Well, it seems other people had this idea too and Betsy and Rim Bishop, a couple of my art collectors, beat me to it! They offered for me to use their cabin in Fairplay, CO in exchange for a painting and I wasted no time in saying, yes! I am flying into Denver at the end of August and am so excited to see what I find to photograph and paint. I can do some plein air this summer after all!

**I still have to figure out  
how to get a car to use  
(renting for two weeks is**

**more than I have budgeted  
for this surprise trip) and  
if you or anyone you know  
would like to exchange a  
painting for use of a car  
please let me know.**

Betsy and Rim’s cabin is in the middle of the state right next to the Pike National Forest, and it is only a couple of hours from both Denver and Colorado Springs.

They will be renting out their cabin in the near future and I will bring back some photos and information about it in case any of you or your family are interested!

So watch this space for some very different landscape paintings starting around the middle of September.

Have a beautiful day!

Carol

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