

Rita J. Montrosse's Bio

I am a native to West Virginia and have taught art for 34 years at Princeton Senior High School in Mercer County. Presently, I am an adjunct instructor of watercolor and metalsmithing at Concord University. My paintings reflect a personal relationship with my environment either at home in the mountains of West Virginia or in my travels. My many sketches and photographs provide material for my watercolors/mixed media paintings, and have even influenced my jewelry designs.

Whichever media I use, I work in a series starting with a representational theme and pushing it as far as I can in developing the concepts. I do not set a limit to the number in a series, just working it until it seems complete. Often a series will be revisited because I can't release it or I have had an insight into a new compositional arrangement.

Mystic Intersection is part of a series of paintings about the mysterious Anasazi's. Other paintings in the series have been about the cliff dwellings and the ascent to the dwellings. Mystic Intersection is the valley floor. The painting is a mixed media watercolor with elements of acrylic and gold leaf.

I am a signature member of the Georgia Watercolor Society, Kentucky Watercolor Society, Southern Watercolor Society, West Virginia Watercolor Society and Juried Artist/Allied Artist of West Virginia. Locally, I am represented by Brainerd Gallery and Gary Bowling's House of Art in Bluefield, West Virginia. My paintings are also featured at Studio Pipestem located in Pipestem State Park in Pipestem, West Virginia and at Tamarack in Beckley, West Virginia.

I feel fortunate that I live in the beautiful state of West Virginia and have been able to work at what I love, both as an art teacher and an artist/artisan.