**Biography for Mary Schossow Schumaker....**

 In my youth I was blessed with a family that traveled extensively to different parts of the world. I became fascinated by the works of art that represented the societies of Western history. This fascination became the driving factor in my desire to study both the history and practice of art. My first art studies were at the Burnley School of Professional Art. I went on to study at the University of Puget Sound and then on to graduate Summa Cum Laude from the University of Alaska, with a major and minor in fine art. I have continued my art education by participating in workshops taught by artists whose work I admire.

 My present art is a formulation of several two-dimensional styles in various mediums. I enjoy exploring the individual characteristics of each medium while trying to achieve my desired effect. I have been selling my work privately through my business "Transitions" and through limited gallery representation. My greatest representation has been in art show venues. I have been honored by receiving various awards, including “Best of Show” and “1st place” in multiple competitions. I have exhibited and received awards in The Pacific Gallery Artists Annual Art Exhibition, The Pacific Gallery Artists Members Show, The South Sound League Arts Exhibit, The Peninsula Art League International Show, The Peninsula Art League Members Show, The Annual Renton River Days Art Show, The South Hill Artists Annual Show, The Emerald Downs Equine Art Show, The NWWS Waterworks Show, The Western Washington Puyallup Fine Art Show, The Parklane Gallery Show of Small Works, and numerous other competitions. My work has been collected by individuals in several states in the US, and in Norway and Germany. I also have work in permanent collections at the University of Alaska and The Emerald Downs Racecourse. I was honored with a membership into the National League of American Pen Women as a professional artist. In 2017 I was granted Signature Membership with the Northwest Watercolor Society.

 I enjoy the spiritual aspect of creating art. I listen and respond to the moment of inspiration. I sometimes begin with a very preconceived idea of what I want to put down on my painting surface only to find that as the subject emerges it creates a voice of its own. At other times the painting process and the media take on their own paths and become an expression of my emotions. The interplay with colors, values, lines, shapes and textures are my voice with which to communicate to the viewer. The viewer's experience is the final part of the artistic effort. I must contend that my art is always evolving, susceptible to the changes in my individual life and the world we live in. I paint from my heart and I would have it no other way

Thank You

Mary Schossow Schumaker