

Weems Galleries and Framing

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Melissa Moulton

Melissa was born in Huntington New York & raised in Connecticut & Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attended the Colorado Institute of Art & earned an Associates degree in Advertising Design. She earned her BA degree at the University of Denver where she worked on the school newspaper doing editorial illustrations & won an award for best editorial illustration & design from the Journalism department.

After college she worked as a free lance artist in California & learned the "ins and outs" of the business. This experience expanded her range of artistic style & technique. She later moved to Washington DC where she worked in an advertising agency, first, as a graphic artist & then a staff illustrator. Later, as an art director, she was in charge of a team of graphic artists who together developed a wide variety of print & television advertisements. It was during this time that Melissa re-discovered her creative foundations & was drawn back to paper, canvas & painting.

The basics of oil painting & chalk pastels were self taught. She drew inspiration from masters works by Renoir, Monet, Degas, Cassatt & Hopper. Her first show was with the Wetherholt Galleries in Washington DC in 1993. The *Review Magazine* mentioned her as "one of the promising new nouveau-contemporary expressionists" from that show. She joined the International Association of Visual Artists & showed with them several times a year. In 1996 she returned to New Mexico.



Once back in New Mexico, she worked as an illustration instructor at the Art Center Design College. This was an enjoyable & enriching experience that helped her grow artistically as she learned to verbally guide her students to the discovery & expression of finding & creating the color in everyday objects. She also joined the Pastel Society in 1997 & received an honorable mention in her first show. Since then, her work has been accepted by & shown at the Wade Galleries of Santa Fe & Taos, the Argosy Gallery, the Corelle Gallery & the Spirit of the Southwest in Albuquerque, the Bear Claw Gallery in Des Moines, NM & at the Keene Gallery in San Antonio, TX.



Melissa looks at each painting as a puzzle to be solved. For her, the art of painting is the art of problem solving; something the world of advertising gave her ample opportunity to learn, because in advertising, the simplest solution is always the right response. The challenge lies in finding that simplicity in a world over run with choices, complications & complexity. Today she is experimenting with elements of nature both in a graphic & impressionistic context.



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