

Artist Bio

Carol Van Vooren, Carlsbad, CA.

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My art experiences began as a child with my father, Al Gilbert, who loved to make projects with me. We built mosaics, painted murals on my bedroom walls, and modeled animals out of clay. In 8th grade I received my first art award for a ceramic dolphin I entered in my junior high school art show. I continued with ceramics in high school and college, earning a BA in Art from SDSU. A semester watercolor class in 1976 inspired me to paint for friends' birthdays, holiday cards, and special gifts. After a long career in education, I recently found new joy in plein air watercolor painting. I took classes from LPAPA artists Shuang Li and Geoff Allen, moving my painting to a new level. My favorite places to paint are my own weekly experiences: the beach, the golf course, local wineries, and events like the Carlsbad Flower Fields. Most of my paintings are plein air, but sometimes I paint these same scenes in the studio...better known as my kitchen. A primary motivation in selling my paintings (sometimes right off the easel) is to donate the proceeds to my daughter's non-profit, Comunidad de Apoyo San Diego, an organization that helps medically uninsured people get needed surgeries. I never dreamed I would be a LPAPA artist of the month. This is such an honor!