

Rebecca Latham - Artist's Biography

Growing up in a family drawn to the outdoors, Rebecca has always experienced a closeness to the natural world. With the supportive encouragement of her parents, and finding a talent in art, she chose to focus her future as a painter in her mid teens.

Rebecca's primary goal in her work is to use her work to help the creatures she paints as well as their habitat. She participates in numerous wildlife & habitat conservation fundraising events to increase awareness & has generated thousands of dollars for wildlife & conservation through her work. Her paintings have been featured on several conservation/hunting stamps including the 2003 MN wild turkey stamp and the Manitoba conservation stamp. She spends as much time as possible observing & experiencing the wildlife she paints: "We often take up to 5000 still photographs on a shoot. It is very important that the subject painted is studied from every available angle, as well as it's habits & preferences".

Because of her interest in the biological aspects of wildlife art, her work always reflects a personal experience with the species. "For me, the research and fieldwork involved are my favorite, rain or shine. There are many times I have to drag myself back to my studio to paint, as I would much rather spend all of my time outside."

Additionally, just as Rebecca is dedicated to the preservation of wild lands and the wild creatures that depend on the existence of those places for their survival, the artist is also dedicated to the preservation of true traditional miniature painting in all it's forms, a type of art that has been practiced since early writing. The artist and her family, all working 'in miniature' in their painting, work to raise awareness and education of classic miniature art. The artist is also devoted to encouraging young artists.

The original meaning of the word "miniature", in referring to the classic traditional artform, means to paint very detailed and is not associated with size, smallness, or scale. As an artist working in that style, she has discussed the topic and studied research of some of the world's leading experts on the subject of miniature painting as well as authoring documents of her own. All of Rebecca's paintings are executed "in miniature", both large and handheld.

Her style & technique are primarily influenced by her artist family, Karen & Bonnie. After studying many mediums & styles of painting and sculpture, she now works primarily in watercolour in a traditional Flemish style of working "in miniature". Rebecca's works range in size from 30" x 40" to 1" x 1". She is particularly enjoys painting small miniature works, "When painting these small pieces, I am always amazed at how they develop so quickly." Rebecca is a member of (MIWAS) Marwell International Wildlife Art Society (UK / Worldwide), (TWASI) The Wildlife Art Society International (UK / Worldwide), (AAA) Allied Artists of America (New York / Worldwide), (CLWAC) Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club (New York/Worldwide), (PSOA) Portrait Society of America (FL / Worldwide), The Cecilia Beaux Forum (FL / Worldwide), (AWS) American Watercolor Society (New York / Worldwide), core member of the (UAN) Untamed Artists Network, & is a signature member of the (SAA) Society of Animal Artists (New York / Worldwide), (AFC) Artists for Conservation - (Canada / Worldwide), (IGOR) The International Guild of Realism (Scottsdale / Worldwide), as well as several international miniature art societies. She was also named "Artist of the Year" by Minnesota Ducks Unlimited for 2006 and designed the 2007 Illinois Habitat Conservation print. Some of the miniature art societies the artist is also holds memberships in include the (MPSGS) Miniature Painters, Sculptors, & Gravers Society (Washington D.C. / Worldwide), (MASF) Miniature Art Society of (Florida FL / Worldwide), (HS - signature member) Hilliard Society of Miniaturists (UK / Worldwide), the British Society of Miniaturists, & the CPA Miniature Artists (PA / Worldwide).

Her work has been shown at numerous art exhibitions including:

The Society of Animal Artists Annual Exhibition & Museum Tour, Arts for the Parks, the Easton Waterfowl Festival, NatureWorks Art Show & Sale, American Art in Miniature - Thomas Gilcrease Museum, Florida Wildlife Exposition, The Wildlife Art Society International's (TWASI) Annual International Exhibition (UK), Southern Wildlife Festival (Best of Show 2003), Kentucky National Wildlife Art Exhibit , Bennington Center for the Arts' Small Works Show, Impressions of New England, & Art of the Animal Kingdom, Whistle Pik Galleries' Christmas Miniature Show, Miller Gallery's' Objects of Desire Miniature Exhibition, Galleries West Fine Art's (Jackson Hole, Wyoming) Fall Roundup and Natural Inspirations - a three artist show featuring Rebecca and her family as well as their miniature art exhibition Little Jewels, Horizon Fine Art Gallery's (Jackson Hole, Wyoming) It's A Small World and several three artist shows featuring Rebecca and her family, Decoys & Wildlife Gallery's (Frenchtown, New Jersey - near NYC) Fall Show & Shoot (Guest Artist).

Rebecca has also shown her paintings in numerous international miniature art exhibitions including:

The Royal Miniature Society's Exhibition in London, the Miniature Painters, Sculptors, & Gravers Society of Washington, D.C. Annual International Exhibition (Manny Sullivan Award for Excellence & Second in Show 2006 & 2007), Miniature Art Society of Florida's Annual International Show (2003 & 2008 Best of Show under 35yrs) & Permanent Collection, the World Federation of Miniaturist's Third World Exhibition at the Smithsonian's International Gallery (Washington, D.C.), British Society of Miniaturists Summer Exhibition (Best of Show 2004), The Hilliard Society of Miniaturists Exhibition in Wells England/United Kingdom (Most Popular Exhibit Award), Seaside International Miniature Exhibit (Best Watercolor 2007), Annual National North American Miniature Art Exhibition (Best Watercolor, 2007), and The Miniature Art Society of New Jersey Exhibition in New York City (Excellence in Animal Painting).