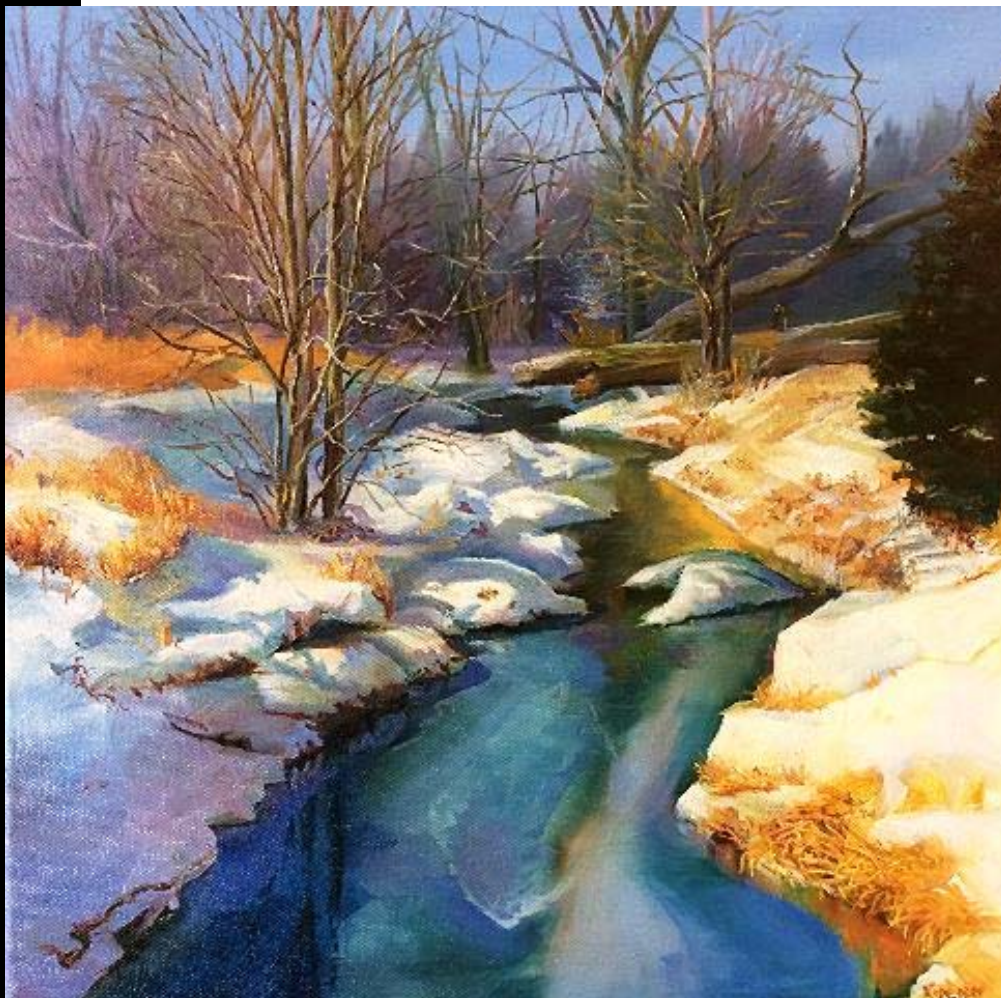


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Winter's Glow (Oil on Panel, 18 x 18 inches)

Artist Dan Knepper of Ohio uses oils to create landscapes that capture a desire to explore the rural countryside, and uses watercolor for his controlled and detailed portraits, allowing a luminosity difficult to obtain in other media. In his words, "I hope you'll step into the moments. Feel the rocking of the waves, hear the wind through the grass, feel the sunlight, explore the barns, and take the path beyond that next hill."

Ever wonder how some artists are able to capture the essence of a landscape or that magical gleam in a child's eye of a portrait? **Dan Knepper** asked himself this question for years. Sure, shadows are important, good lighting is imperative, but a type of revelation finally hit him.

"It's the atmosphere of the light and its effects, the illumination of leaves and grasses, the glowing shadows, the dance of the sunset on the water and those amazing moments when the air itself has color that must be captured."



Mansfield Morning (Oil, 18 x 24 inches) Dan Knepper

Mother's sways brought Daniel's 'boat' ashore

Knepper remembers his mom painting murals on his bedroom walls and window shades in an attempt to unleash the creativity in her son.

It must have worked because Dan became a teacher of art. For the past 15 years, Dan has taught students from kindergarten through high school, often bringing in achieved artists to teach week-long workshops at the school. Not only did the kids benefit from these visits, but Knepper admits that he also learned a lot.

Watercolors are Dan's medium of choice in both landscapes and portraits. Understanding that most galleries prefer oil over watercolor, he does work to further advance in this area.

You can find his works in *August Laurel Gallery*, Ojai, California, *Carteret Contemporary*, Morehead City, North Carolina, *Going to the Sun Gallery*, Whitefish, Montana, *Greenwich House Gallery*, Cincinnati, Ohio, *Mary Williams Fine Art*, Boulder, Colorado, *Howard/Mandville Gallery* in Kirkland, Washington and expect new locations opening soon.

As from the current gallery listing where his works can be also purchased, Dan's artwork has graced the pages of *Fine Art connoisseur*, *American Art Collector*, *Southwest Art*, *Watercolor Artist*, *Outdoor Painter* and *Professional Artist* magazine.



In addition, his works were a finalist in national and international competitions, namely, the *Richeson 75*, *Plein Air Salon*, the *Airstream Fine Art Invitational*, *Southwest Art's Artistic Excellence* and the annual competition of *Artist Magazine*.

He credits much of his oil painting skills to mentor **Steven Walker**.

Interestingly, Dan would love to find a way to incorporate music as he sees each piece he creates as rhythm, melody, harmony. .

.virtual music.

When asked about his plans for the future, artist Knepper did not hesitate: "I just had a piece chosen for the Fav 15 in the *Boldbrush Competition*.. It's an honor since the artists are all pros. I have pieces going to *Art At The Mill* in the spring, and I'm trying to build a body of western work to get into western auctions. I'm taking portrait commissions and I just started doing 'Monday Morning Sketches' which are small paintings that will sell online."

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TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

SUN PAINTING: Spray a piece of watercolor paper with water; pour inks onto it. Place objects on the wet paper, such as, leaves or shells and let dry in the sun. When paper is dry, remove the objects to reveal a print.

OIL STICKS: A fun way to work with oil paint without brushes, use oil sticks. These contain oil and wax that gives them a buttery consistency. Another advantage is that oil sticks contains driers. The paint film will dry in a few days.

SYRINGE PAINTING: A different approach to oil painting is to fill a syringe with oil paint, straight from the tube, and squirt on the canvas. This effect can be combined with paint brush work and imagination for a unique painting.

EARTHY APPROACH: To create an organic background, try scattering powdered charcoal on a piece of smooth watercolor paper. Then pour water on it. Another approach is to spray water on the charcoal. When the paper is dry, trees or rocks etc. can be drawn with a charcoal pencil.

RICH COLOR: Oil pencils produce a rich creamy color when applied to paper. A Q-tip may be rubbed over the applied color to achieve a pastel effect. Working with oil pencils on wood produces brilliant color.

CREATING PATTERNS WITH MINERAL SPIRITS: Apply a wash of acrylic color to paper. While it is still wet, dip a wooden skewer into mineral spirits and touch the paper's surface. Rings will appear that will create interesting patterns. Using your imagination, you can develop these patterns into many possibilities.

PAINTING ON SLATE: For a different painting surface for acrylics, try painting on a piece of slate. Choosing a broken piece with irregular edges, for example, may be used for a representation of a cave wall.

IN A WASH: Dropping dishwashing liquid into an ink wash creates a pattern.

CREATING MOOD: Using horizontal shapes in a painting, nearly always suggest a calm mood. Strong verticals and diagonals imply action.

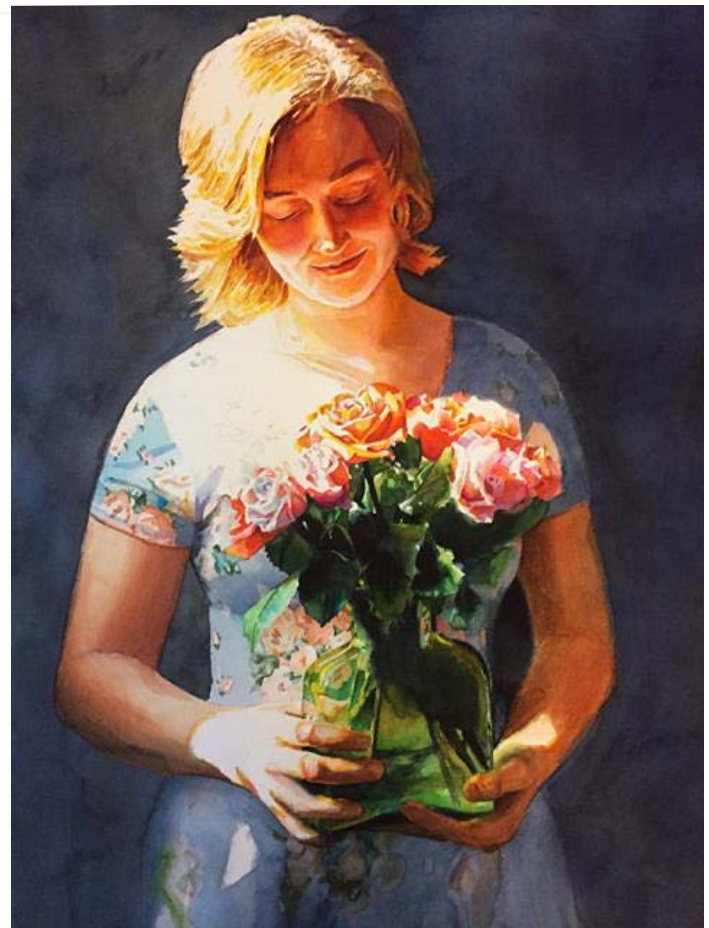
TISSUE DABBING ON OIL PAINT: To create interesting textures for backgrounds, rocks, foliage etc, try dabbing the wet surface with a crumpled up tissue.

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MOTHER'S SWAYS BROUGHT DANIEL'S 'BOAT' ASHORE

Dan is not alone in his future endeavors. His son, **Jordan Knepper**, is the Executive Director of the *Piqua Arts Council* in Piqua, Ohio, and helps with hosting workshops.

With creativity flowing in his veins, it is not hard to see why Knepper enjoys living in an 1800s Victorian home. Also a pet lover, you can find his beloved Hamster, **Scout**, posing in artwork that hangs in the *Dayton Children's Hospital* and in a mural



The Gift (oil, 22 x 28 inches) Dan Knepper

in the *Piqua Mall*.

For more information online -
danknepperart.com.



Kissing Bridge (Oil, 10 x 15 inches) Dan Knepper