

Watercolors by Lu Bleveans

"I work in watercolor, the most alluring, mysterious and unpredictable painting medium," says Lu Bleveans. "I'm drawn to the hard lines and varied angles of man-made structures softened by the color and soft shapes of the natural world. My subjects and shapes are drawn from nature but interpreted into paintings that move away from reality toward the dreamlike and ambiguous. I feel successful when the beholder responds to my painting with the emotion I felt when interpreting a scene."

She began her study of art with black and white photography, which she feels gave her a solid background in composition. Then her husband's work took the couple to Sydney, Australia, where Lu enrolled in art school in 1995. A year and a half later, the Bleveanses moved to Hong Kong, where Lu notes, "the climate was too humid for oils, so I found an intermediate watercolor class. I was a beginner in the medium, so the learning curve was steep. I fell in love with it, though, and have never looked back."

Since returning to the States to live in rural Hanover, Lu has studied at workshops in the U.S. and abroad led by Frank Webb, Mel Stabin, Caroline Buchanan, Judi Wagner and Barbara Nechis. In May of 2010 she attended the Intensive Studies Seminar in Taos. She teaches classes in her home studio and enjoys sharing her love of watercolor with others. She says Jeanne Dobie has been a big influence on her, and that she uses Dobie's book Making Color Sing as a basis for her own classes. She offers classes for beginners and intermediates and private tutorials at a more advanced level. She will be offering workshops at the Galena Artists' Guild Gallery as well.

Notecards of Lu's paintings are available in Galena, Dubuque, Iowa City and Mineral Point, WI in galleries and bookstores. Original paintings and prints are available at the Galena Artists' Guild Gallery and from the artist.