

Susan J. Champeny, Artist
6 Hackfeld Road, Worcester, Mass. 01609
508-320-7528
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Awards:

2008 The City Celebrates: A grant from the Worcester Cultural Council to create a series of paintings continuing the theme established in the 2007 Wayfinder Public Art project.

Public Art:

- 2007 Wayfinder for City of Worcester: a grant-supported project to design public art depicting the spirit and history of Worcester, rendered in mosaic tile. Erected in September, as part of the Wayfinding Initiative, a prototype signage and navigation system for the City of Worcester. Collaboration with the guiding committee, cultural institutions, fellow artists and fabricators was an important part of the process.
- 2006 Highland Street Holiday Banner Project: created 16 banners, in collaboration with Neighborhood Nssociation, Dynamy and the Saori Weaving Studio in Worcester, MA.
- 2001-2002 The Portable Mural: creator and organizer of a large-scale, installation and community project, shown at several locations in Worcester, including the Italian Cultural Center.
- 1995 Resolutions: installation art with interactive components by the women's artist group, Art XII for First Night, Worcester.

Solo Exhibits:

- 2007 Wandering: series depicting roadways at the Lincoln Council for Aging, Lincoln, MA
- 2006 Near and Far: paintings of the Puna District, Hawaii at One Love Cafe, Worcester
- Getting Abstract: abstract works, First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- Along the Way: roadsides of Worcester County, Booklover's Gourmet, Webster, MA
- 1997 Vanishing Landscapes: First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- 1996 Worcester Views: First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- How it Was: Blue Moon Gallery, Chagrin Falls, OH
- Autumn Harvest: Borders Bookstore, Framingham, MA
- 1995 Old Mills and Abandoned Buildings of Worcester County: Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Gordon Library, Worcester
- Traveling Show: Borders Books and Music, Tacoma, WA and Portland, OR
- Natural Light: watercolor paintings at Borders Books and Music, Chestnut Hill, MA
- Watercolor Views: Shrewsbury Public Access Connection, Shrewsbury, MA

- 1994 Second Series: paintings at Borders Books and Music, Peabody, MA
- 1993 First Show: watercolor paintings at Borders Bookstore, Framingham

Group Exhibits:

- 2007 Windows, Work and Leisure: paintings of the environs that Poet Stanley Kunitz knew, at the Stanley Kunitz home, Worcester.
- 2006-2007 Worcester Windows Project: ongoing display of many artist's works in vacant storefronts throughout the city of Worcester.
- 1998 States of Mind: with ArtXII, UMass Medical Center School Lobby Gallery, Worcester
- 1997 Twelve by Twelve: ArtXII group show, Paradis Art Gallery, East Douglas, MA
- 1997 Structure and Nonstructure: with Gail F. Hormats, Paradis Gallery, East Douglas
- 1996 Shrines: group installation with Art XII at ArtsWorcester Gallery, Worcester
- 1995 Self Portrait: large-scale group installation with ART XII, a collaboration of twelve women artists, New England Center for Crafts, Worcester.

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Alternative and Recurring Venues:

Open Studio Weekend: first weekend of December.

Newton Highland Women's Club Holiday Craft Fair: third Saturday, November.

The Greater Worcester Farmer's Markets: throughout summer and fall.

StART on the Street: arts festival, third Sunday of September, Park Ave., Worcester.

Sutton Arts Festival: first or second Monday of September.

Painting on Location:

California Mojave Desert, Ridgecrest and Kern County, City of Oceanside

Georgia Macon and surrounding counties

Hawaii Kapoho Tide Pools, Puna District, Volcanoes

National Park

Kansas Wichita and Sumner County

Maine Orr's Island, Wells Beach, Moody Point, Ellsworth and Arcadia,

Saco River

Massachusetts City of Worcester urban landscapes, New Braintree, Paxton,

Rutland State Park, Plum Island, Mount Wachusett,
Lincoln, Newton
New Hampshire White Mountains, Monadnock region
New Mexico Albuquerque and Santa Fe
New York Route 90 and Route 20 statewide, Ellicottville and
Cattaraugus County
Fingerlakes region, Adirondack region
Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh and surrounding countryside
Vermont Randolph, Bethel, Roxbury, Branches of the White
River
Washington Olympic Rain Forest, City of Tacoma

Canada Brockville, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba
Japan Kyoto, Kobe, and Southern Islands
Mexico Los Moches and El Fuerte

Subject Matter:

urban demolition mill buildings scottish highland cattle
construction equipment happy homes abstract drawings in red black
and white families at the beach kids at the farm comic books
hawaii winter peanut-butter mouse rooftops maple sugar shack
volcano raccoon butterfly fish abandoned buildings mimosa and
pine oxford milling company mount wachusett ocean sunrise
roadways hiking rain forest farms and barns baldface mountain
coral reef fall colors

Education:

1982 Massachusetts College of Art in Fine Arts: BFA in
Printmaking
1975-1977 Wellesley College, Chinese Language Studies

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Artist Statement:

I love to explore. I also love to paint. I get up early and paint
in the morning. The light is best then, and it is a quiet time of
day. I drive to a location and paint outside as much as weather
conditions permit. When rush hour starts, I find a breakfast
place and enjoy the daily special. I have discovered some great
places to eat as well as paint.

My field sketches are done in watercolor. I paint directly with
the color, rather than drawing first. Some of my sketches result
in paintings that are worthy of framing as is. In the afternoons,

I work in my studio in acrylic or oil, using my watercolor sketches as inspiration.

Recently, I have begun a series of large (22 x 30 inch) abstract drawings, and a series of gestural works in spraypaint using natural and industrial materials.

My most exciting project to date has been to create a public artwork for the base of the Wayfinder Initiative signage prototype for the City of Worcester. The artwork was rendered in mosaic tile, and installed in September 2007. It was an intensely collaborative project, requiring the assistance and teamwork of many people over six month's time. I thoroughly enjoyed the many technical and creative challenges this project presented, resulting in my largest artwork (48 square feet), in a medium completely new to me.

I plan to create a series of large-scale paintings on canvas of Downtown Worcester. These are inspired by the more than 100 sketches and drawings I did as visual research for the Wayfinder project. My goal is to showcase the amazing visual treasure that is Worcester's urban landscape.

About the Artist:

Susan Champeny graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art in Fine Arts, with a major in Printmaking. She quickly found employment as a graphic designer, and worked in the field of commercial art for 20 years. She designed at newspapers, art directed magazines, and most fun of all, worked for a company that made children's sports toys, skateboards and in-line skates.

While working in the corporate world, she continued to paint and create fine art. In 1993, she had her first solo art show, at Borders Bookstore in Framingham. She has shown many times since then, in New England, Ohio, Washington State, and Oregon. She was a member of the women's artist group, ArtXII, which created installation art and held numerous group shows.

In 2006, she changed careers and is now a Fine Artist, painting full-time. Her business plan is based on three principles: have fun, create, and travel.

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Chronology of Exhibits and Shows:

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- 2007 Wayfinder for City of Worcester: a grant-supported project to design public art depicting the spirit and history of Worcester, rendered in mosaic tile. Erected in September, as part of the Wayfinding Initiative, a prototype signage and navigation system for the City of Worcester. Collaboration with the guiding committee, cultural institutions, fellow artists and fabricators was an important part of the process.
- Worcester: Windows, Work and Leisure: with artist Christina P. O'Neill.
An anthology of paintings of the Worcester and environs of poet Stanley Kunitz, as part of the Blackstone Corridor Footsteps in History program in Worcester, MA.
- Wandering: solo show, Lincoln Council for Aging at Bemis Hall, Lincoln, MA
- 2006 Near and Far: solo show, One Love Cafe, Worcester
- Worcester Windows Project: ongoing display of artist's works in vacant storefronts throughout the city of Worcester.
- Getting Abstract: abstract works, First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- Along the Way: solo show, Booklover's Gourmet, Webster, MA
- Highland Street Holiday Banner Project: created 16 banners as a collaboration with EHANA neighborhood association, Dynamy and the Saori Weaving Studio.
- 2001-2002 The Portable Mural: creator and organizer of a large-scale, installation and community project, shown at several locations in Worcester.
- 1998 States of Mind: UMass Medical Center School Lobby Gallery, Worcester
- 1997 Twelve by Twelve: ArtXII group show, Paradis Art Gallery, East Douglas, MA
- Vanishing Landscapes: solo exhibit, First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- Structure and Nonstructure: two artist exhibit, Paradis Gallery, East Douglas
- 1996 Shrines: group show by Art XII at ArtsWorcester Gallery, Worcester
- Worcester Views: solo exhibit, First Unitarian Church, Worcester
- How it Was: solo exhibit, Blue Moon Gallery, Chagrin Falls, OH

- Autumn Harvest: solo exhibit, Borders Bookstore,
Framingham, MA
- 1995 Old Mills and Abandoned Buildings of Worcester County:
solo exhibit at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Gordon
Library, Worcester.
- Traveling Show: at Borders Books and Music, Tacoma, WA
and Portland, OR
- Self Portrait: large-scale group installation with ART
XII, a collaboration of twelve women artists, New
England Center for Crafts, Worcester.
- Natural Light: solo show of watercolor paintings at
Borders Books and Music, Chestnut Hill, MA
- Watercolor Views: exhibit at Shrewsbury Public Access
Connection, Shrewsbury, MA
- Resolutions: installation by Art XII for First Night,
Worcester
- 1994 Second Series: paintings at Borders Books and Music,
Peabody, MA
- 1993 First Show: watercolor paintings at Borders Bookstore,
Framingham