

**ART** APRIL M. RIMPO  
ARTIST'S STATEMENT

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Sometimes I think that I don't select my subject matter, it selects me. This might explain why you will see landscapes, urban scenes, or paintings of people doing everyday things. I've always loved learning about other cultures and places, so in my artwork I strive to show bits of life that grab my attention and make me feel compelled to tell the story.

I start by taking countless photographs any time I travel abroad or across the United State. Other artists, who have traveled with me, have said I see things that they never notice. When I'm ready to start a new painting, I spend some time remembering why I was drawn to the scene in my photographs. To develop a composition, I look to emphasize three things. Of highest priority is the mood or emotion I felt when I took the photographs; second priority is the story behind the photographs; and, lastly, I look for the pattern of lights and darks that I believe will help me to successfully tell the emotions and story.

There are common themes in my paintings, but I seldom develop a series sequentially. For example, I oscillate between detailed scenes of urban life and much less detailed, but more emotional, scenes with figures. This approach balances the right and left side of my brain and keeps me happy.

Watercolor, fluid acrylics, and casein allow me to work more loosely than in my earlier oil and pencil work. I believe it is the fact these media flow unpredictably that inspires me. These media absorb me into the work; allowing the piece to develop in directions not fully planned. This is part of the thrill of working in watermedia that I didn't find in other media.

My artwork has become more interpretive, containing more of emotional content. Those who see my art seem to be drawn to the story. In fact, a visitor at one exhibit told me she thought my artwork was very happy and that she felt drawn into it in a way that a photograph could not accomplish.

My work has been included in three Best of Acrylic books: AcrylicWorks 3, 4 & 5 and in two Best of Watercolor: Splash 19 and 21 publications. My work has received a variety of awards in National and International exhibitions.

I feel a piece is successful when the mood I wanted is achieved and the story shines through. Real success comes, however, when others tell me the story they see in the painting. Often their story is quite different than mine, but it doesn't matter! I feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction for having been able to evoke a memory or an emotion in my viewer. What more could I ask for as an artist?