



STEVE GRIGGS PAINTS WATERCOLOR

## NEXT LEVEL LOOSE

When Steve Griggs discovered his love of watercolor painting, he was in elementary school. His teachers commented to Steve's mother that while he was quiet and polite, he could often be found staring out the window rather than attending to the lesson. To this day Steve admits this is true. He found the cloud formations he observed from the classroom window fascinating. The shapes of the trees and lights and darks of shadows were just more captivating than arithmetic or English. One day Steve's mother found him admiring the tubes of watercolor paint at a craft store. She purchased the paints and his love of watercolor was born. He started painting those shapes, shadows, and cloud formations.

Steve attended art school and learned traditional watercolor techniques as well as drawing, oil and acrylic painting, and principles of design. While his education gave him the important art fundamentals, he was always pushing his watercolor painting toward a loose, and emotive style.

Steve spent time studying watercolor artists who departed from traditional painting styles. By learning from those artists and pushing his talent further, Steve developed his own loose style of painting. Today Steve doesn't ever draw on his paper before painting. He uses sketchbooks to develop all of his ideas, design, and color before he puts a paintbrush on the paper.

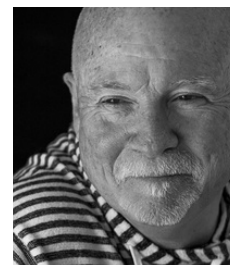
While Steve initially had a career in the design field he never stopped drawing and painting. In the early 2000's, Steve started entering his loose watercolor paintings into juried art shows. He immediately started winning awards and gaining recognition for his unique painting style. Today he is a full-time watercolor painter and instructor.

Recently Steve moved even farther from traditional watercolor techniques by applying his unique style to large format paintings; some as large as 48" x 32." Even when painting in this large scale, he never draws on his page first. He jokingly refers to this a 'next level loose!'

For Steve the beauty of watercolor is found in its unpredictable and challenging nature. He can be heard saying, "You can't ruin a watercolor!" in every painting workshop or class, as he encourages students to embrace how free-spirited watercolor can be.

While Steve is considered a watercolor master, he is the first to say that watercolor cannot truly be mastered. The medium has a mind of its own and an artist must remain open to letting it surprise them.

Steve maintains that the best way to work with watercolor is to appreciate its unique qualities, allow it some freedom, and watch its beauty emerge.



## STEVE GRIGGS

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## EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS

2024

Rocky Mountain National Watermedia - Evergreen, CO  
American Impressionist Society: Small Works Showcase - St. Simmons Island, GA  
47th International Watermedia Exhibition - Houston, TX

2023

**Honorable Mention** - Rhode Island Watercolor Society National Watermedia Show, Pawtucket, RI  
**Golden Paints Award** - Colorado Watercolor Society State Exhibition, Central City, CO  
Snowmass Plein Air Invitational - Snowmass, CO

2022

**Maria Pisto Award** - Michigan Watercolor Society State Exhibition, Detroit, MI  
**Honorable Mention** - Colorado Watercolor Society State Exhibition, Lakewood, CO

2021

22nd American Impressionist Society National Juried Exhibition - Omaha, NE  
**1st Place** - Paint Grand Traverse: A Plein Air Affair - Traverse City, MI  
American Impressionist Society: Small Works Showcase - Charleston, SC  
Colorado Watercolor Society State Exhibition - Golden, CO  
Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 42nd Annual International Juried Exhibition - ONLINE  
Rhode Island Watercolor Society National Watermedia Show - Pawtucket, RI  
Gilpin Arts Association Annual Juried Exhibition - Central City, CO  
**Merit Award** - Berkeley Arts Council Watercolor Expressions Exhibition - Berkeley, WV

2020

**M Graham Merchandise Award** - Rocky Mountain National Watermedia - Evergreen, CO  
**Best of Show** - Mountainside Miniatures National Show - Arvada, CO  
International Watercolor Exhibition Japan - ONLINE  
Colorado Watercolor Society State Exhibition - Golden, CO  
Michigan Watercolor Society State Exhibition - ONLINE  
Gilpin Arts Association Annual Juried Exhibition - Central City, CO

2019

**Painted Toe Society Award** - Rocky Mountain National Watermedia - Evergreen, CO  
**Honorable Mention** - Paint Grand Traverse: A Plein Air Affair - Traverse City, MI  
**1st Place** - Boulder Plein Air Festival - Boulder, CO  
**Honorable Mention** - Boulder Plein Air Festival - Boulder, CO  
**1st Place** - Colorado Watercolor Society - Centennial, CO

## PUBLICATIONS

### THE ARTIST

*Telling a Good Story* - December 2023  
*Light and Dark* - November 2023  
*Sketchbook Joy* - October 2023  
*Reignite the Spark* - September 2023  
*The Secrets of a Successful Business Partnership* - June 2022  
*Life as a Professional Artist* - May 2022  
*Dynamic Storytelling with Patch Quilt Painting* - March 2022  
*Loosen Up by Simplifying* - February 2022  
*Add Animals to Create a Narrative* - March 2021  
*Perpetual Motion* - Summer 2020  
*Tell a Compelling Story* - March 2020  
*Unwrap the Gift of Colour* - February 2020

### WATERCOLOR ARTIST

*Living Large in Watercolor* - Summer 2024  
*Go Figure* - Summer 2021  
*Setting the Stage* - February 2020  
*The Power of Suggestion* by John Parks, August 2018