

SHERRY MASON

PROFESSIONAL ARTIST CV

Lexington, North Carolina | sherry@sherrymasonart.com | sherrymasonart.com | @sherrymasonart

Contemporary Realist Oil Painter

Profile

Sherry Mason is a contemporary realist oil painter whose work explores light, atmosphere, memory, and the emotional experience of the visible world. Rooted in direct observation and plein air practice, her work is refined through sustained studio study. Rather than being defined by a single genre, Mason pursues recurring questions across landscape, the figure, still life, and other subjects: what light reveals, what makes a moment worth noticing, and how observation becomes memory. Following a career in pharmacy, she retired from practice in 2016 to devote herself fully to painting.

Education & Selected Professional Development

- B.S., Pharmacy, University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy
- Six-month mentorship with Tina Garrett - representational oil painting
- Selected workshops with Joseph McGurl and Bill Farnsworth
- Ongoing independent study of classical and representational painting, including the work and methods of John MacDonald and Ken Salaz; sustained study of light, color, atmosphere, and the Hudson River School tradition

Selected Awards & Honors

2026

- Finalist (January 2026), 18th International ARC Salon - Sunset Autumn Glow II (advanced from 2025 Semi-Finalist)
- Finalist, August 2026 BoldBrush Painting Competition, juror Casey McKee - Common Interest
- Semi-Finalist, Almenara Art Prize 2026 - Late Autumn Beauty and The Ski Slopes of Buttermilk Mountain
- Artistic Recognition Award, Art & Color 365 - Alone but Not Lonely
- Honorable Mention, Art & Color 365, 2026 Landscapes/Seascapes Competition - Pier to Forever
- Honorable Mention, Art & Color 365, 2026 Artist's Choice Competition - Come Watch with Me
- Honorable Mention, PleinAir Salon, January 2026, Water Category
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, January 2026, Water Category
- Honorable Mention, TeraVarna 9th Open International Juried Art Competition - Pier to Forever and The Way of Water
- Honorable Mention, FAME FRAME Gallery International, Essence of Water

2025

- Semi-Finalist (2025), 18th International ARC Salon - Sunset Autumn Glow II (advanced to Finalist in January 2026)
- Semi-Finalist, Almenara Art Prize
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, April 2025, Best Western Category
- Honorable Mention for all three submitted paintings, TeraVarna 12th Open International Juried Art Competition

2024

- Honorable Mention, TeraVarna 9th Landscape Exhibition
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, January 2024, Best Western Category

2023

- Honorable Mention, PleinAir Salon, April 2023, Animals & Birds Category
- Honorable Mention, PleinAir Salon, February 2023, Animals & Birds Category
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, April 2023 - Animals & Birds and Best Water categories
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, February 2023 - Animals & Birds and Western categories
- Judge's Choice Award, 10th Annual Winter Juried Exhibition, Mooresville Arts
- Honorable Mention, Paint Kingsport! Plein Air Festival
- Finalist Award, 6th ANIMAL Art Competition, Art Show International
- BoldBrush FAV15%, July 2023

2022

- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, November 2022
- Top 100 Finalist, PleinAir Salon, July 2022
- Second Place, KAG Juried Members Winter Art Exhibition
- Judge's Choice Award, Mooresville Arts 40th Anniversary Artoberfest

2021

- Second Place, Cabarrus Artist Guild Spring Juried Show
- Third Place, 43rd Annual SpringFest, Mooresville Arts

2019

- Second Place, Cabarrus Artist Guild Spring Juried Show

Selected Exhibitions

2026

- International Guild of Realism, 20th Annual Juried Exhibition, Principle Gallery, Charleston, South Carolina - Pier to Forever
- International Guild of Realism, 2026 Fall Salon Online Juried Exhibition (October 15-December 20) - Sunset Autumn Glow II
- Salmagundi Club Annual Members Exhibition, Skylight Gallery, New York, New York
- NOAPS Associate Online Exhibition - The Chair
- AIS 6th Annual Associate Member Online Exhibition - Afternoon Stillness
- AAPL 2026 All Member All Levels Annual Online Exhibition - Alone but Not Lonely
- Colors of Humanity Art Gallery, Water, June 2026 - The Way of Water and The Luxury of Enough
- Paint It Orange, Orange County, North Carolina (October-November 2026) - Prickly Pear at Thunder Mountain; Cane Creek Reservoir
- Art & Color 365, Spring 2026
- FAME FRAME Gallery International, Essence of Water, April 2026

2025

- Salmagundi Club 117th Annual Thumb-Box Exhibition, New York, New York
- Winter's Palette, Salmagundi Club, Rockwell Gallery, New York, New York
- Realism on the Hudson, AAPL Exhibition, Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, New York
- NOAPS Spring International Online Exhibition - 200 works selected from 1,172 entries
- GCA Falling in Place Exhibition, Nine Eighteen Nine Gallery, Charlotte, North Carolina
- AAPL 2025 Spring Members Online Show
- TeraVarna 12th Open International Juried Art Competition

2024

- Painting for Life, solo exhibition, Seby Jones Cancer Center, Boone, North Carolina
- Rendezvous in Scottsdale, 18th Annual International Guild of Realism Exhibition, T.H. Brennen Fine Art, Scottsdale, Arizona
- Realism on the Hudson, AAPL Exhibition, Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, New York
- Preservation Through Art - Charleston, Preserving a Picturesque America
- International Guild of Realism Fall Salon Online Juried Exhibition
- NOAPS Associate Member Online Juried Exhibition
- American Artists Professional League Spring Members Online Show
- Almenara Art Prize 2024 Online Exhibition - four paintings

2023

- From Plein Air to Studio, solo exhibition, Renaissance Art Center, Kingsport, Tennessee
- International Guild of Realism Annual Online Exhibition
- NOAPS Associate Online Exhibition
- Realism on the Hudson, Howland Cultural Center, Beacon, New York

2022

- National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society Associate Member Online Exhibition
- Bascom Member Challenge PLACE
- 56th Annual Appalachian Art Show
- Mooresville Arts 40th Anniversary Artoberfest

2021

- National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society Associate Member Online Exhibition
- Explore, American Artists Professional League Spring Members Online Exhibition

Selected Press & Publications

2026

- Fine Art Connoisseur, Featured Artwork, September 2026
- Louvre Unbound Magazine, Volume 8, six-page Artist Spotlight, September 2026
- Artistcloseup Magazine, artist feature, September 2026
- American Art Collector, Issue 248, June 2026, p. 95
- Fine Art Connoisseur, Art Renewal Center Special Section, March/April 2026
- Art & Color 365, March/April 2026, print and digital feature
- Voyage Raleigh, "Rising Stars: Meet Sherry Mason of Lexington, NC," February 10, 2026
- American Art Collector, Issue 244, February 2026, p. 72

2025

- PleinAir Salon Artist Spotlight, June 16-19, 2025

2024

- American Art Collector, "In Touch with Reality," IGOR Fall Salon Online Exhibition, October 2024, pp. 42-43 & 89
- American Art Collector, IGOR group feature, Rendezvous in Scottsdale
- PleinAir Salon Artist Spotlight

2023

- The New York Optimist, Featured Artist
- American Art Collector, International Guild of Realism Annual Online Show Preview, November 2023

- American Artists Professional League interview with Jon Bandish
- PleinAir Salon interview, August 2023 digital magazine
- Artsy Shark, Featured Artist Portfolio and Spring 2023 Artist Showcase

Teaching & Mentorship

Workshop instruction at regional venues including Doe River Gorge; private mentorship opportunities offered online and from Mason's home studio.

Selected Collections & Public Placement

- Private collections across the United States
- Smoky Mountain Majesty, seven-foot oil triptych, permanent public placement in the reception area of Riverside Smiles, Bryson City, North Carolina

Professional Memberships

Salmagundi Club, New York • Oil Painters of America (OPA) • National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society (NOAPS) • American Women Artists (AWA) • International Guild of Realism (IGOR) • American Impressionist Society (AIS) • American Artists Professional League (AAPL) • Guild of Charlotte Artists • Preserving a Picturesque America