

MARCH SPEAKER—Intruitive interpretations by Rob Weingartner

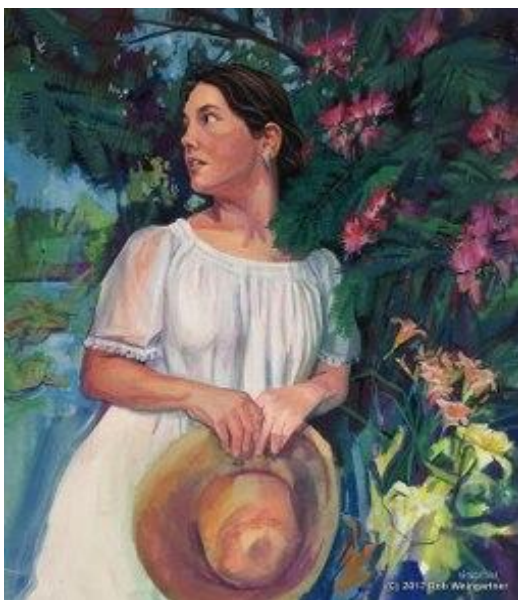
Rob will show how he uses a photo, then interprets it into a painting using acrylics and other mediums.

Background: A graduate of Central Academy of Commercial Art, for over 30 years I have been an Art Director, Graphic Designer and Illustrator. I've developed sales collateral, product and package design, characters and rendered illustrations from concept to finish mostly for the children and tween markets. For the past 20 years I have worked as a jeweler/silversmith and lapidary artist doing fine art shows and selling my work to galleries.



As an illustrator I painted on demand for a variety of products and clients. It needed to be in this style or like this artist. I also spent a lot of time fixing and making revisions on other artists work. This arm or leg doesn't look right - fix it. I loved solving problems, but as time went on most of the work was designed and illustrated on the computer. At first I loved the computer and what it could do for illustration and the production of packaging and products. Then as time went by working 60 plus hours a week for years, I began to miss what I became an artist for. I missed the craftsmanship by hand, the feel of a brush. To pursue that need or want I began silversmithing and stone cutting. For years I sold my jewelry to galleries and at fine art shows. I still did a few paintings a year and some freelance illustration and design, but the metalsmithing had been all consuming for over 20 years. I found it funny, but most of my customers didn't know that I was a painter and illustrator.

Three years ago my wife and I had a life changing experience. There was a fire, we got out, but lost everything except our vehicles and garage. Our neighbors, family, friends, artists, even people we didn't know helped us. It's hard to express my feelings about this. Everyone was so wonderful to us! My workspace where we were staying was too cold to cut stones and make jewelry most of the winter. I found an old box of acrylic paints stored in our garage, so I started to paint. This work is a result of that experience.



Interpretations: For the first time in my career as an artist I decided to paint what I wanted to paint. Most of my paintings and portfolios were burned in the fire, what did I really have left to lose. For years I had made sketches and even marker comps before I would start a painting. The new paintings were meant to be direct. I started with a brush and black paint. I painted day and night. I painted the views from out the front window and around the valley we were in.

I love Impressionism and Abstract Expressionism, I went to the library and read every book I could find on the Impressionists and modern art, things I didn't learn at commercial art school. I painted birds, landscapes, and flowers working on the play of light and color with direct techniques and spontaneity. These paintings are what I wanted to paint, what I saw around me and in my neighbor's gardens. After a long time of not really painting, I wanted to see if something unique would happen. One painting evolving from the last. I have a lot of paintings to go, this is the start.