

LINDA SHEPARD



artist's statement

My art is the culmination of a life-long obsession with art. It nourishes the spirit and reminds me that goodness and beauty are all around—and within.

It's my hope that my work will give viewers a peaceful place to pause from life's daily demands. I'm inspired by subjects that may seem insignificant—even mundane—yet familiar. I like to strip away distraction and focus on the light, patterns and color that attract me to a scene.

All of my work is done from life or from places I've been. I like to create paintings with a sense of anywhere. People often say "I know right where that is!" And while I appreciate creating work with a sense of anywhere, I try to avoid overdone. I'm not saying that you will never see a red barn painting from me, but I try to find subjects that people wouldn't typically see and immediately think "that would make a great painting".

I work in both pastel and oil because I find that working in oil improves my pastel and vice versa. The techniques are similar in both mediums, but they have different strengths. Somehow, one feeds the other keeping things fresh and interesting for me. I'm often told that people can't tell the difference between my oils and my pastels.

A painting is finished when it answers the question "why paint *this?*" More often than not, it involves the manipulation of edges with sharper, crisper edges in more important parts with broken and lost-and-found edges elsewhere. Leaving sketchy, less-finished areas feels more genuine and less mechanical to me.

I'm most thankful for people who purchase original art, whether it's from me or somebody else. It affirms my belief that there is something intrinsically valuable in simple, shared human experiences. It quietly helps us connect in ways mass-produced artwork or electronic media can't.

"I have to tell you how much I love your suburbia series. You capture the light so perfectly and I love the colors. I live in a city neighborhood now but miss living in an apartment complex next to a walking trail on a protected watershed that would wind along a river on one side and homes on another. The nature (ponds, trees, wildflowers, creek, heron!) mixed with suburban backyards was strange and beautiful, and after dinner the light hit just right to make it magical. Your artwork really evokes that for me."

—Heather Y.