

Watercolors & Silks

by Barry L. Busch

~ About the Artist ~

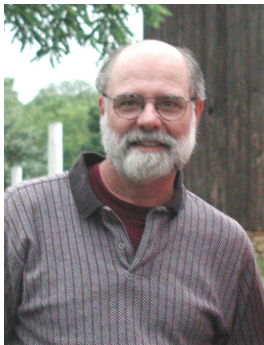
I consider myself fortunate to have grown up in Hannibal, Missouri, Mark Twain's whimsical boyhood home. The town seemed to spawn creativity. I won an art competition there as a high school freshman, but never studied art formally beyond those early years. However, I always loved the creative process, and studied creative writing and philosophy, attaining a B.A. with Honors in Philosophy from the University of Missouri at Columbia. After graduation, another stroke of luck landed me in Ireland, where I lived for a time. There, the incredible landscapes and colors were permanently etched in my creative psyche, a life long influence that has drawn me back to that incredible island numerous times.

Financial demands lured me to the corporate world with Jostens, Inc. Once again good fortune was with me, as Jostens was a serious training ground for marketing, photography and graphic design. Eventually, I transferred to Topeka, Kansas, which I didn't consider lucky at the time. But I quickly discovered the landscapes and skies here were in their own unique way as inspiring as the impressive vistas of Ireland. Landscapes and the vibrant colors of the great outdoors grew as influences in my creative work, which was predominantly in photography during that period.



In 1979, I founded a small graphic arts agency, and over the next 25 years built it into a company that created promotional products for the global foodservice industry. Throughout that career, I never lost touch with the creative process, working predominantly as a hands-on creative director in video and audio production and creative writing in addition to photography. But through all these years, always I wanted to paint.

Good fortune fell on me again when I impulsively purchased watercolor lessons from D.L. Studios at a charity auction some years ago. I was immediately mesmerized when I applied the first pigment to paper, and local artist and instructor Diane Lawrence became an endless source of encouragement. As a result, I committed myself to recapturing the years spent away from my first love, the visual arts. I took a lengthy leave of absence from my business to devote time to creating original art, and never returned. Instead I sold my company, which afforded me the opportunity for more study and exploration in art. I began to experiment with silks, which are created with dyes rather than pigments. The colors tend to be more vibrant, the images more abstract due in part to the nature of the material and how it takes the dye. To contain and control the dyes I use a variety of "resists", including organic materials such as honey and cream, as well as more conventional treatments such as gutta and wax.



I spent many hours in my professional career working with computer generated graphics, and while I do not generate any final images via computer, I use one extensively to catalog and compare digital images from my original photography, the basis for most of my watercolors. The computer has also become an indispensable tool for experimentation with graphic distortions and variations in color which I often use as references for works.

I am an avid sailor, outdoorsman and traveler, the influences of which can be seen in much of my work. The many years I spent in graphic arts are also a heavy influence, particularly with my silks and abstracts. Please feel free to inquire about commissions, or for more information.

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Media

Watercolor

Images in silk (predominantly framed hangings) & silk scarves (wearable art)

Fluid acrylics

Exhibitions and Showings

“En Plein Aire” Invitational
Topeka Country Club Topeka, KS
Watercolor and Silk
Painting Day October 5, 2006
Group Exhibition and Auction December 5, 2006
Group Exhibition Southwind Gallery Topeka, KS December 2006

Group Exhibition and Charity Auction
Silk hangings and silk apparel
CASA Topeka, KS December 2006

Holiday Art Fair (*juried*)
Watercolors, Silks
Lawrence Art Guild Lawrence, KS December 5, 2006

Solo Exhibition
“Les Explorations dans la Soie”
Silks
The Collective Art Gallery Topeka, KS October 2006

Rockbottom Farm Art Fair
Watercolors, silk hangings and apparel
Tecumseh, KS September 2006

Silk Painters International Exhibition (*juried*)
Silk
Santa Fe Community College Center for the Visual Arts Santa Fe, NM August 2006

Group Exhibition – Topeka Art Guild
Watercolors
Classic Bean Fairlawn Topeka, KS July/August 2006

Group Exhibition – “20th Century Chronicles”
Watercolors
The Topeka Art Guild Gallery Topeka, KS July/August 2006

Art in the Park (*juried*)
Watercolors, silk hangings and apparel
Lawrence Art Guild Lawrence, KS May 7, 2006

Group Exhibition
Silks, watercolors, fluid acrylics
The Collective Art Gallery Topeka, KS Full Member since March 2006

Three Artist Joint Exhibition
Watercolors and Silks
Secretary of State Office Building Topeka, KS Feb/March 2006

Group Exhibition – *Kansans Paint Kansas (juried)*

The Topeka Art Guild Gallery	Watercolors Topeka, KS	Sept/October 2005
Group Exhibition - Annual Exhibit of the Students of Diane Lawrence		
Classic Bean Downtown	Watercolors Topeka, KS	Nov/Dec 2001-2005
Solo Exhibition		
Classic Bean Downtown	Watercolors and silks Topeka, KS	March/April 2005
Group Exhibition - <i>Kansans Paint Kansas (juried)</i>		
The Topeka Art Guild Gallery	Watercolors Topeka, KS	Sept/October 2004
Solo Commercial Exhibition		
Offices of the Center for Manual Medicine	Watercolors and Silks Topeka, KS	Sept/Oct 2004
Joint Oxandale/Busch Show and Sale		
Oxhead Pottery Studio	Watercolors Topeka, KS	November 2003
Busch/Saylor Two-Artist Exhibition		
Classic Bean West	Watercolors Topeka, KS	Sept/Oct 2002

Professional Affiliations, Awards and Related Experience

Instructor, Topeka Art Guild	“Introduction to Silk Painting”, 1 day workshop	2007
Artist-in-Residence	Grant, USD 437 Foundation	2007
The Collective, Topeka, KS	Board of Directors/Webmaster	2007
Silk Painters International (SPIN)	Board of Directors/Treasurer/Marketing Committee	2006 – 2008
SPIN Workshop and Conference	Student: 3-day silk workshop Jean Louis Mireault	2006
Lawrence Art Guild (LAG)	Member Artist	2006
TAG workshop	Student: Hugh Greer, fluid acrylics	2006
The Collective, Topeka, KS	Member Artist	2006
SPIN	Volunteer: Graphics/Newsletter Design	2005
SPIN Workshop and Conference	Student: 3-day silk workshop/Teena Hughes	2004
Topeka Art Guild, Inc. (TAG)	President	2005 – 2007
TAG workshop	Student: Cally Krallman, acrylics	2005
TAG workshop	Student: Orlanda Keuther, watercolor	2004
TAG	Volunteer: Promotion and Publicity Committee	2004 - 2005
Topeka Advertising Federation (TAF)	President	1987-88
Admark, Inc. /PRG, Inc.	Creative Director/ A/V Director/ Photographer	1986 - 2000
TAF	Chair: Jury and Hanging Committee	1985
GTCC Small Business of the Year	Recipient	1985
TAF	Producer: Annual Meeting Multimedia Presentation	1983 - 1984
Jostens, Inc.	Workshop instructor: Photography and Design	1972 - 1976
Mahan Award Student Art Competition	First Place (<i>judged, annually, from body of work</i>)	1964