

Gretchen Honsberger Shepard

Scholarship Endowment



Husband and wife, Gretchen and Wes Shepard, had been painting together for a dozen or so years. "Our paths first crossed at a friend's studio loft where a casual group of painters would meet to paint still life. As artists do, we would gather at various times to critique others' work, share refreshments and share art related events. In the passing of a few years, each of our circumstances had changed. We were both widowed. The rest is history and the following year, in 2008, we married. We laugh, that together we have accumulated over 110 years of marriage!"

Wes and Gretchen shared nine happy years of marriage before Wes passed away in 2017.

"Painting enriches my experience with the natural world. There is nothing quite like plein air painting, of contemplating the colors, forms and light of a peaceful environment. Recent views of a heron feeding on shore and egrets gathered in a marsh have given me interesting challenges. A trip to Alaska has prompted me putting brush to paper recording the beauty of Alaska's inland waterway and its magnificent glaciers.

The colors, and cloud like atmosphere, are still vivid in the memory. Although my primary focus is on painting with watercolors, I love the spontaneous nature of this medium, I also appreciate the saturated marks made with pastels. I am continually inspired by expression with color. "

Gretchen is a graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in education and applied arts. She studied watercolor with locally and nationally known artists including Mel Stabin, Charles Reid and Paul Zimmerman at the West Hartford League.

This scholarship was given by Weston B. Shepard to honor his wife and their love of painting. It is intended for students studying the Arts.

Written by: Gretchen Shepard
December 20, 2017