

CHARLENE COLLINS FREEMAN, NWS

WWW.CHARLENECOLLINSFREEMAN.COM

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Born in San Francisco, California with an American father and Italian mother, Charlene was raised in Italy and in the U.S., between the new world and the old. She began painting and photographing in high school, in Vicenza, Italy. She attended Mills College and the University of Utah, where she received her BFA in 1987. Since then her artwork and photography have been exhibited in national and international competitions and have received top awards, including several Best in Show honors.

Her paintings are the result of both her love of realism and the unpredictable qualities of watercolors. From urban scenes to traditional botanical studies, Charlene depicts the beauty in ordinary moments. While her subjects and colors are contemporary, the tone of her work is still and introspective. Her work focuses on the pauses between our words and the scenes between our actions, as these represent the threads that connect us. She is both enthralled and comforted by the richness of every day objects and moments.

Some of the accomplishments she is most proud of include: being awarded signature membership in the Northwest Watercolor Society, an Individual Artist Project Grant by 4Culture for her photography, having numerous paintings published in *Splash*, an annual compilation of the year's best American watercolors published by North Light Books (*Splash 15* and *Splash 17*). She was invited to join Women Painters of Washington, was chosen as a finalist in the Landscape category of *The Artist's Magazine* 31st Annual Art Competition. She was the featured speaker at the International event "Get Inspired" on Zoom in 2021, guest speaker at the Kenmore Art Show in 2015, presenting "Traveling with a Sketchbook." Charlene was honored by the City of Kenmore in 2010 and again in 2013 when the City purchased her watercolors for the City's Art Collection. Charlene's works hang in private collections, corporate collections and public buildings.

Charlene has been a juror for several exhibits and she teaches drawing, painting, and the joy of sketchbooking at numerous art schools and colleges. In 2016 she became the U.S. partner for World Tours Studio (<http://www.worldtoursstudio.com>), which organizes workshops around the world. In 2017 Charlene fulfilled a long time dream by opening an online art school, Cloud 9 Art School (www.cloud9artschool.com) attracting instructors and students from around the world.

Her artwork is available for purchase from her website and through Red Sky Gallery in Lake Forest Park, Washington and Tsuga Fine Art in Bothell, Washington.