

Kim Barnes



After graduating from Syracuse University with a BFA in Illustration, the native upstate New Yorker moved to Kansas City to work for Hallmark Cards. It was there that a fellow artist introduced Kim to the fine art of miniatures, which seemed like a natural progression since she painted most of her greeting card designs at actual print size. Entering her first MASF show in 1992, she felt encouraged to pursue this genre when two works received first place awards.

Free-lancing in editorial illustration for eleven years now, Kim resides in Baltimore. Her work has been published in *Reader's Digest*, *Sports Illustrated*, and limited signed editions of *Franklin Library Books*, in a variety of styles from traditional acrylic paintings to Polaroid image transfers and digital art. With a strong sense for dramatic lighting and a realistic painting style, she has also illustrated many bookcovers for murder mysteries!

Kim's passion remains with miniatures, painting from photographs she has taken here and abroad. In 1998 she was voted an honorary Signature Member of Miniature Artists of America, and has won numerous national and international awards. She is a resident member of The Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, DC.

Judge's Statement

What a treat! I was so thrilled to be asked to judge this year's show with Susanna. The "job" of choosing award-winners from such a top-quality collection of artwork left me awed, inspired, energized, and anxious to get back to my studio. And thanks to the very organized efforts of the volunteers, Susanna and I had all the fun and they did all the work! There were numerous paintings that were in close contention for awards, but those that eventually won grabbed my attention from the start and kept drawing me back for another look. It's still amazing for me to see how artists can make such powerful visual statements in so small a space.

A few tips or reminders that can make the difference in a judge's mind. Presentation is essential. When framing the smallest of miniatures, choose a mat and/or frame that will showcase the painting's worth, not diminish its presence. Paintings in doll house frames without a mat won't have the same impact. It's akin to choosing the right setting for a jewel. And lastly, enter your artwork in the appropriate subject category! (i.e. What is the subject matter *predominantly*?) It will greatly improve the chances of getting noticed!

This year's exhibit of miniatures once again reflects all that is exciting about the genre: the intimate relationship the paintings demand with the viewer, the depth of talent represented from around the world, and the skill of the artists to create images that evoke as much enchantment as their larger counterparts, but in a fraction of the space. It gives me hope and encouragement that this genre will continue to grow and gain the exposure and prestige it deserves, as more artists discover miniaturism through MASF's support and generosity.