H. Francis Sellers

Harry Sellers was born and raised in Rock Springs, Wyoming, a mining and railroad town. He loved drawing even as a small child. The schools had very good art teachers and hanging on the walls in the high school classrooms were many original paintings – Norman Rockwell, Grandma Moses, Rufino Tamayo to name a few, hanging right there above your desk. They are now in a museum but what an inspiration for young aspiring artists.

Since the University of Wyoming at that time had a very limited art program, Harry attended Brigham Young University. After several years of study in a wide range of media, he kept returning to watercolor. He considered but decided not to pursue teaching and began traveling around the west trading small paintings for gas. He then worked the timber camps, sawmills and oil fields but this caused his painting to suffer.

Harry went to Los Angeles and enrolled in the L.A. Trade Tech School of Lettering Arts, i.e., sign painting. This provided a way to make a living and have time to concentrate on watercolor. He then devised a plan he called a “Grubstake”. He put together a group of people who would pledge monthly payments for yet-to-be painted works. He would travel to Mexico for the winter, come back, settle up with the “Grubstakers” and go to Canada for the summer. When his children were old enough to start school, he settled in Salt Lake City but still spent the summers in Canada.

Harry has had many one-man shows nationwide. Many galleries that have shown his paintings have come and gone but he has been in the Meyer Gallery in Park City, Utah for almost 45 years. He is in the Utah State Capitol permanent collection, the University of Utah College of Law collection, the Western Montana Museum of Art, the South Western Wyoming Art Museum and countless private collections.

Over the years, he slowly migrated toward miniature works until now that is almost all he does. He is a member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida, Miniature Artists of America, Miniature Painters Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, DC and Cider Painters of America and notes that miniature art can easily become an addiction.

Judge’s Statement

One cannot describe the feeling of being surrounded by hundreds of absolutely incredible works of miniature art.

When you realize that everyone of these pieces required a far greater mental and physical discipline than most larger works, it becomes even more amazing.

Every piece seems to capture a bit of the artist’s soul and judging these tiny giants is extremely difficult. The longer you study each piece, more and more comes out of them. Deciding which piece will receive an award is almost an impossible task.