

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

My paintings are a reflection of the place and environment where I live. The watery climate of Southeast Alaska compels me to capture many local subjects through my paintings. The subject may be a favorite spot or a pervasive color, such as the color of Ketchikan rain in the summer, which is often a soft shade between mauve and gray. It may be that same color of king salmon scales that catches my interest, or the secret greens of the rain forest.

My inspiration rarely stems from the imagination. I am inspired by experiencing our environment. It fascinates me to watch my fisherman friend clean and fillet fish as if he'd been doing it in another life. I find inspiration in the southeaster storm that drives rain up under my raingear and turns the ocean into a broiling cauldron. The moss and wet darkness of Alaska's misty forests make it a mysterious subject that I will never completely know or tire of.

Oil paint is the medium of choice for me. It is solid, durable, a little old fashioned, very rich, tangible and ever so deep. It wears well with my temperament, like an old friend. With oil paint, I can manipulate color and light to the fullest. Through the process of improving the form and composition of my paintings, my style is changing. As my style evolves, and I continue to figure out what being an artist means to me, I rely on instinct and intuition to guide me. As I become less concerned with technical ability I feel a sense of freedom to express more of the thoughts within. My new "pure art" goal is to release the creativity from its inner shackles and to express myself to others through my paintings in such a way that will not only make them enjoy my work, but be more aware of themselves. I want people to think about their place in the universe, to learn to visualize, be more tolerant, less plastic and to celebrate all the ordinary things.

ANNA L. HESS

June's Cafe