



## **Leslie Allen**

Leslie Allen is an award winning plein air oil painter, who has treasured early childhood memories of painting plein air in oils with her grandfather, a Canadian artist. “Paint what you see” were his best verbal instructions, but imulating his every brushstroke and painting technique were life-long valuable tools. Later in life, the first whiff of oil paint aroma at the Art Students’ League, triggered pleasant memories of painting with her grandfather, and she knew, “I had found my place!” The early training of her artist grandfather taught Ms. Allen to see paintings everywhere and constantly be painting mind pictures. When viewing Leslie’s paintings, it is obvious that she is attracted to and inspired by colorful, intimate landscapes infused with light and shadow, especially the panoramic scenes of Canada which seem to brighten her spirit and feed the soul.

“Recently, she undertook studies in abstract painting as a push for growth and maturity in her art work, seeing essential shapes in nature and how the color, light and shadow shapes and relates to the composition. To capture the essence of the moment, being out in the fresh air, in all weather, translating feelings and impressions onto the canvas, making a connection with the viewer who then sees the beauty in everyday things are primary goals of Leslie Allen. Often she is asked, “How can you paint both representational impressionistic landscapes and abstracted landscapes interchangeably?” She states that they seem different but are related by virtue of the abstract shapes and composition and bold brushstrokes. Both are spiritually fulfilling in her growth, as an artist and as a person.

Leslie Allen awards are many: 2005 “Juror’s Choice Award,” Gilpin County Arts Association 58th Annual Exhibition; 2004 “Best in Show” Rocky Mountain Plein Air Painters Miniature Show; 2002 “Best Impressionistic Painting” National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society. Leslie is a signature member of Women Artists Of the West, associate member of Oil Painters of America and National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society and is a founding member of Plein Air Artists of Colorado. She has mounted 5 solo shows and participated in over 60 juried shows, 70 group shows and 58 invitational shows over the last 15 years. Her Magpie piece “Waiting” was featured in 2003 September/October Wildlife Art Magazine. Her works are in private and corporate collections across the United States, Canada, South America and Germany.

*For more editorial information about this artist, please contact the artist directly:*

### **Leslie Allen**

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“Red Winged Blackbirds”