



From art to science and the road back

Our modern world surrounds us with constantly changing images. Artists aim to use images more meaningfully to deliver us more than a fleeting representation. Michele's work combines the freshness and immediacy of loose watercolor with the subtlety and nuance from observation. It is work that has immediate impact but also reveals its beauty over many years.

Born and educated in England Michele didn't really discover art until her teenage years. Her father was a talented artist when he was young. She remembers sitting beside him as he sketched outside in the Suffolk countryside. Michele had her own small sketchbook and tried to learn from him as he drew the landscape - marking in color and lighting notes as he went. She admits that she frankly wasn't very good at that point but the joy of drawing had been planted.

The art bug didn't really bite Michele until she was about 13. Somehow something clicked in a school art lesson. Her art teacher had put a group in front of a huge old mechanical typewriter and they were instructed to draw it. It wasn't an easy subject for any of them. And yet the longer she looked the more the complex mechanical shapes made sense and her pencil followed suit. She had discovered the pleasure of truly seeing something and representing it on paper.



Puffins. Watercolor 11"x14"

Michele combined painting and drawing throughout the rest of her school years in parallel with science and maths. When it came to deciding on college she plumped for science and went on to do a degree in physics at Oxford followed by a PhD. Her

science career took her from Oxford to Cambridge to MIT and Harvard and she worked in many interesting areas including the Human Genome Project. She says that she was extremely lucky to be part of the cutting edge genomics revolution over the past couple of decades.

Art was on the back burner for many years but she always knew she'd come back to art at some point. Michele remarks that it's little appreciated that science is a hugely creative endeavor. Like art it's also all-consuming - you can't dabble and expect to do it well. So after emerging 6 years ago from immersion in the



Marlborough church. Watercolor 14"x11"

research world she needed a creative outlet again. And watercolor was there waiting.

When she first started taking art classes again she admits that she really didn't



Trinity College, Oxford. Watercolor 14"x11"

know what she was doing. In retrospect she reflects that was a good thing. The fact that she was out there putting brush to paper regularly was the best groundwork she could do. She didn't overthink things and her artistic motivation grew organically.

The vast majority of Michele's work

is in watercolor. She paints a wide variety of subjects but the goal is similar. She says that she wants her paintings to reflect the human response to a moment in time. She loves the way the transparency of watercolor shows how the image was built and the choices that were made.

Michele wants not only to communicate her own vision but to tap into common human experiences that resonate with people. We all have moments when we connect with our surroundings in a special way. It could be the stark sunlight on a New England winter's morning, or the curve of a bird's wing. Something



Brass Callipers. Watercolor 14"x11"

seemingly small, yet unique and perfect in the moment.

Michele is currently living in central Massachusetts with her husband. She finds it a rich source of inspiration from the ruggedness of the Maine coastline to the farms of

Vermont. They are very happy that we live in New England. She feels strongly that deep immersion in your own environment gives you fuel for artistic work that will touch a much wider audience.