



Lois Salmon Toole, MAA, NWS, WPA

Lois Salmon Toole has been a painter all her life. She grew up on the coast of New Jersey, received her B.A. in fine arts from Douglass College of Rutgers University. In 1976 after having moved to Ohio, a state leading in the myriad of approaches to watercolor, she began painting exclusively in transparent watercolor.

Since then her work has been accepted in 425 national and international juried exhibitions winning 135 awards. She has been honored with signature memberships in 17 professional art organizations including National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, the watercolor societies of Ohio, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, Allied Artists of America, American Society of Marine Artists, and Miniature Artists of America. She is listed in Who's Who In American Art.

In 1980 she was introduced to miniature watercolor painting via Whiskey Painters of America. Out of curiosity she responded to show listings for the Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and Florida international miniature exhibitions, which opened up for her the whole wonderful world of miniature fine art.

Her work is featured in 11 publications including *Splash 3* and *Splash 7*, *Best of Watercolor 1* and *Best of Watercolor 3*, *Landscape Inspirations*, *American Artist*, *Artists Magazine* website interview, plus two instruction books: *Painting Ships, Shores, and the Sea*, and *Watercolor Skies & Clouds Techniques by 23 International Artists*. In the instruction books she illustrates how she uses her finished miniature paintings as studies for her larger work. For demonstrations or talks, her subject is usually miniature art.

Judge's Statement

It was a great honor to be asked to jury the prestigious Miniature Art Society of Florida 2009 International Exhibition. I knew from the sheer numbers and quality of work I'd seen in previous years it would be a daunting, awesome task - and I was not disappointed. There were so many magnificent deserving pieces, many more than could be awarded. The quality of work and master of the miniature art form was superb.

One starts with definitive criteria: creativity, content, concept, composition, color, value, contrast, form, volume, balance, handling of medium, etc. Then the process becomes more subjective: discovering subtle harmonies, exquisite pathos. You keep in mind the so-called rules. Then something trumps the rules. The variety of styles and approaches in these tiny masterpieces is compelling. I try not to rely too heavily on the magnifying glass because I am visiting another world - the fascinating, wonderful World of Little.

In the final phase of jurying, choosing becomes infinitely more difficult. Several deserving pieces had to be eliminated because the artist had already been awarded in another category. Another day I might have made some different choices. I truly appreciate the opportunity MASF has given me to jury such an outstanding show and hope that viewers will enjoy each and every piece as much as I did. I congratulate all the artists and applaud the members of the Society for their months of hard work and dedication. My best for a successful show.