



"Last Harvest", Bonnita Budysz, pastel on paper, 12" x 18"

News Release
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Red Wing Framing Gallery harvests the season with Autumn Aire:
An exhibit of fall-themed paintings by oil and pastel artist Bonnita Budysz

Red Wing, Minn. — Artist Bonnita Budysz takes a colorful look at fall. Her paintings of fields, rivers and harvest produce evoke that first crisp morning when the colors pop from the land gold and russet.

September 8 through October 21, Red Wing Framing Gallery will present an exclusive engagement of Budysz's works. Entitled "Autumn Aire," the exhibit will feature 24 of the Wisconsin oil and pastel artist's vibrant fall landscapes and still lifes.

To premier the exhibit, Budysz will host an on-site painting demonstration, Saturday, September 9, at the Red Wing Framing Gallery. Running 1 to 4 p.m., "Harvest Offerings" will give attendees a chance to meet and interact with an award-winning painter, whose works are exhibited by the Pasadena Museum of California Art and collected by the Cultural Galleries in Petropavlovsk, Russia, and to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the artist's process of alla prima (wet-into-wet) painting.

Like her art, Budysz's life draws inspiration from the land and its seasons. Growing up in Wisconsin's rural Manitowoc County, she spent summers at her grandfather's dairy farm, sketching fields and cows herded for milking.

Bonita Budysz at Red Wing Framing Gallery, Add 1-

“There was no question in my mind growing up that I was going to be an artist,” said Budysz, who began formal training at the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee.

At the age of 20, she took a career risk and moved to California, where she honed her portrait skills at San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf while working days at a bank. The risk paid off.

It was during her time in California that Budysz encountered Russian Impressionism and was influenced by its emphasis on color, light and vigorous brushwork. Classes at the Palos Verdes Art Center and Sergei Bongart Institute ripened the creative vision that later would bring her to the attention of magazines like American Artist and International Artist.

Twelve years ago, Budysz and her husband Robert returned to Wisconsin. They moved to Two Rivers, said Budysz, “Because we wanted to simplify and get in touch with a more natural existence. And as a plein air artist, being in nature is important. Your connection with the wind and the air and the earth, that becomes a part of your painting.”

Installed in a renovated heifer barn designed and renovated by her husband, Budysz’s studio recalls the long-ago summers spent on her grandfather’s dairy farm—memories she mines every time she sets off to paint the woods and old farms dotting her slice of rural Wisconsin.

“I love farms and the idea of sustenance that culminates in the harvest,” she said. “It’s an artistic adventure for me and, hopefully, something I’ll be exploring to the end of my days.”

Bonita Budysz is an award winning member of the Oil Painters of America; an awarded/signature member of the American Impressionist Society and the Pastel Society of the West Coast; and an active member of the Portrait Society of America. Her lush and luminous paintings in oil and pastel are widely collected and exhibited in many private, corporate, and museum collections throughout the United States, Canada and Europe and is an invited out-of-state artist member of the prestigious California Art Club.

Red Wing Framing Gallery (www.RedWingFraming.com) is located in the historic Boxrud Building on Main Street in downtown Red Wing, and specializes in original fine art, custom framing and fine-art printing.