



"St. Marks Winter Palm"

Oil on canvas, 2007, 40" x 30"

Julie Bowland

United States, 1957-

Donated by Julie Bowland

Julie Bowland derives her talent from both her parents, for her father is a retired psychologist and art therapist as well as an artist with whom she has done joint exhibitions, and her mother had created ceramic wall hangings and collages from her father's drawings. Growing up in Indiana and Michigan, her interest in art was nurtured by repeated trips to Chicago's Art Institute to view the works of Monet and Van Gogh. She eventually returned to her native Florida, where she earned a B.F.A from Florida State University painting lush, tropical swamps; then moved to the very different climate of the Southwestern desert, where she earned her M.F.A. at Arizona State University at Tempe. She taught Art at Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College, served as director of the 621 Gallery, and Director of Art in Public Places for the Tallahassee/Leon County Cultural Resources Commission before assuming her present position as faculty member in Valdosta State's Department of Art and Director of its Fine Arts Gallery in 2002.

Ms. Bowland's work has been exhibited in a number of regional solo, two person and group shows, and she has won several awards in the Annette Howell Turner Center of the Art's Best of Spring Into Art and Thomasville Cultural Center's Summer Showcase competitions. Continuing her interest in the Southwestern landscape, she has painted and taught plein air painting workshops several times at Escalante Canyons Art Festival in Utah. Her paintings are held by many private collectors and a number of public and corporate collections, including the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, Buchanan (Michigan) Museum of Fine Arts, Florida State College at Jacksonville, the City of Tallahassee Permanent Collection, and First South Bank in Tallahassee.

"St. Marks Winter Palm" was painted at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, south of Tallahassee, Florida for inclusion in the exhibit, "The Triumph of Plein Air: St. Marks Refugees", a title chosen to express the love that she and her artist friends had for "painting outdoors at this beautiful refuge on the coast as opposed to working in a studio...I love the spontaneity of painting in the wild, responding directly to the energy of a place. The changing light, heat, cold, bugs, wind, birds and alligators all add to the dynamic experience of painting outdoors."¹

"St. Marks Winter Palm" is very characteristic of Ms. Bowland's work, depicting a wooded, tropical Florida landscape, with intense glowing colors that include pink and purple highlights seldom seen in real landscapes. She explains why she uses color like this: "My color choices are intended both of an exaggeration of the natural colors I see in the wild as well as an expression of my feelings; they are both based on my response to nature and a personal expression of emotion. There is no formula, but I avoid brown and even green and I find them boring in a landscape painting. There are so many more interesting colors which you can see if you really look carefully."² Ms. Bowland donated this picture to the Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. She is an active member of both the University Art Collection committee and the Library Art Committee.

1. Bowland, Julie. "Need some information about the painting you donated to the library." Message to Denise L. Montgomery. E-mail. 9 September 2013.