



▲ Bastide Near St. Remy de Provence, oil, 10 x 13.

◀ Cap Ferrat, Seaside Walk, oil, 20 x 16.

Valerie COLLYMORE

FOR INSPIRATION, Valerie Collymore returns often to the terrain of her youth—southern France. Picturesque Mediterranean locales, such as Arles and Cap Ferrat, dot the area and have long attracted visitors and artists. The region is also where Collymore discovered art and began to paint and draw. Her mother, a widow at 36, wanted to live in western Europe to offer her children exposure to the art and music of many cultures. The family ended up staying in France for nine years.

Today Collymore is based in Seattle and is a former physician who started painting in

oils in 2009. A year later she decided to trade in her stethoscope for paintbrushes and pursue a career in fine art. Collymore's first goal was to embark on an intense, two-year study program. Not only did she log miles of canvas, but she also enrolled in workshops with master artists including C.W. Mundy and Daniel Gerhartz.

In many ways Collymore carries on the legacy of French Impressionists, such as Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, who shared her love of southern France. In her work, she always strives to achieve a “painterly, impres-

sionist” style, and she devotes much effort toward selecting strong compositions, unusual lighting effects, and harmonious neutral colors to which she often adds a high-chroma “kick.” When asked what she hopes to convey in her work, the artist replies, “Healing and optimism, simplicity, and the beauty and glory of the landscape that surrounds us.”

Collymore is represented by Fountainhead Gallery, Seattle, WA; Galerie Marie, Collingswood, NJ; and Pascal Bouterin Gallery, St. Remy de Provence, France.
—Bonnie Gangelhoff