



**Melissa Miller Nece, CPSA, CPX, MAA**

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Melissa Miller Nece is regarded as one of the foremost colored pencil artists in the country. Her enthusiasm and humor have made her a favorite speaker for arts groups around Florida, and she has inspired many others to try colored pencils through her classes and workshops. She has been teaching colored pencil, drawing, and oil and acrylic painting at the Dunedin Fine Art Center since 1990. She has taught many workshops around Florida, and as far away as New Mexico, Oregon, and Wisconsin. She has also worked in and taught college level graphic design.

Melissa is president, a ten year merit signature member and a CPX signature member of the Colored Pencil Society of America. CPSA has an international membership of about 1600 artists; its mission is to promote colored pencil as a fine art medium. For eight years previously, Melissa was CPSA's ways and means director; in that position she cultivated a strong working relationship with art materials manufacturers and distributors. Previously, she served two terms as president of CPSA District Chapter 113. She is also a signature member and board member of the Miniature Artists of America, a member of the Florida Artist Group, board member of the Professional Association of Visual Artists and a member and past board member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida.

She developed a mixed media technique featured in a step-by-step article she wrote for the October 2012 issue of *The Artist's Magazine*. Other publications that feature her artwork include *CPSA Signature Showcase*, *Modern Masters of Miniature Art in America*, *Creative Colored Pencil Portraits*, *American Artist* and *Drawing Highlights* magazines, *The Best of Colored Pencil*, volumes 2, 3, and 5, and other books. She has worked with several manufacturers of art products who have used her work in advertising, packaging and promotional materials. Her drawings and paintings are in many private and corporate collections, including the city of Clearwater, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, and the Pencil Museum in Keswick, England.

Melissa finds inspiration in the Florida environment, particularly its beaches:

*"I find our Florida environment to be an endless source of subject matter. I see the beach as a stage for human activity. When there, we observe countless little plays, scenes being acted out by characters in colorful costumes, in lighting that might be dramatic, bright and cheerful, or soft and subtle. My artwork aims to capture some of those scenes, bits and pieces of little dramas that are filled in by our own interpretations, our own experience. We observe, and in our memories we hear the steady rhythm of the waves, the screech of the gulls; we smell the sunscreen and salt air; we feel the hot roughness of the sand. At the same time, we should be reminded how precious and fragile our beautiful environment is, and that we need to respect and protect those special places."*