



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 South Carolina, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

Since 2008, Melissa has served on the national governing board of the Colored Pencil Society of America, as ways and means director and president, and currently as corporate relations director, cultivating a strong working relationship with art materials manufacturers and distributors. She is a 15-year merit signature member and a 5-year merit CPX signature member of the society. She previously 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, is a member and former trustee of the Professional Association of Visual Artists, and a member and past board member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida.

Melissa exhibits locally and in national and international juried exhibitions. Solo shows have been at St Petersburg College (2016), Pasco Hernando State College (2009 and 2015) and Dunedin Fine Art Center (1996 and 2002). She was an invited artist in four shows at the Ormond Memorial Museum (Ormond Beach FL; 2002, 2008, 2011 and 2012). She won Best of Show at CPSA DC113 show "It's Colored Pencil" (2019), the Lee County Alliance for the Arts All Florida Show (2017), Autumn Artfest in Live Oak FL (2011), the PAVA annual Members Show (2010 and 2019), and three times in the statewide Florida Artists Group annual shows (2001, 2006, 2009). She has three awards from CPSA International Exhibitions and four in the CPSA "Explore This!" online show, including in 2020. She was also a regular winner at festival shows, with the highest Awards of Distinction at Art Harvest (1996), the Palm Harbor Art Festival (1994), Lake Wales Art Show (1997 and 2003) and the PAVA Out of the Blue Festival of Art, Clearwater (2006). And her numerous awards from miniature art shows around the country include a Best of Show, nine First Place (medium and subject matter categories), and four Judge's Choice.

She developed a mixed media technique featured in a step-by-step article written for *The Artist's Magazine*, October 2012. Her artwork was also featured in *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. Multiple manufacturers of art materials have used her work in advertising, brochures and packaging. Her drawings and paintings are in private, corporate and public 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.

About her current work, Melissa says:

My subject matter is mostly found as I prowl the coastline of Florida with my camera – I am best known for realistic drawings of Florida beaches. I love to accurately capture the details of people interacting with our environment so the viewer can feel they are there with us. But recently I have also been exploring intuitive abstract themes – some things insist on being expressed in a less literal way.