

## Gene Rizzo

Gene is a self-taught watercolor, oil and acrylic artist. He was born in Houma, Louisiana, a seacoast community famous for its outstanding southern hospitality, sport fishing and commercial seafood industry as well as its picturesque and colorful Cajun scenes. He developed his artistic skills at a young age while capturing the beauty of nature's wonderful water birds, seascapes and landscapes with his sketches.

While a student of the LSU School of Architecture and Fine Art, Gene was shown the basics of watercolor by guest lecturer and famed watercolor artist Edgar Whitney. Having graduated from LSU and after a long and successful architectural career, Gene began a new and rewarding journey with watercolor art; but only after recovery from serious cancer surgery in 1995. While recuperating, and trying to not continually think about possible future effects from cancer and the surgery itself, Gene knew that he needed something new in his life, something meaningful, yet mentally demanding, a new challenge to guide his thinking towards more positive and enjoyable thoughts; It was watercolor art !



*"I fell in love with watercolor painting and my art became my Passion! The more I painted, the more my cancer fears and concerns diminished while my love and desire to paint accelerated. My early paintings were memories of my younger years, growing up with nature; the sea, the birds and the ambiance of it all; that is what I continue to paint today."*

Gene embraced his new life's path, developing his own artistic styles and techniques from which he has produced many award-winning watercolor images.

Being a self-taught watercolor and acrylic artist whose painting techniques clearly define his very recognizable style of artwork, it became intriguing to Gene to expand his artistic interests because of his love and appreciation of "plein-air" artwork. Therefore, Gene embarked upon the task of teaching himself the basic elements of acrylic painting and has since attended studio and plein-air workshops hosted by some of the most recognizable and renown artists in the U.S.

Since becoming a Tierra Verde, Florida resident and member of the Florida Watercolor Society and the American Society of Marine Artists; Gene has become an acclaimed nautical watercolorist whose coastal and beach scenes, seascapes, lighthouses, wildlife, swamp and other nautical images have artistically captured the essence and moods of his subjects.

Gene has exhibited in many outstanding, nationally rated and juried fine art festivals in the southeast United States and his artwork can be found in many private and corporate collections throughout the United States and in many foreign countries. He has been awarded many fine art awards such as: Best of Show-2D, Best Watercolor, Awards of Distinction and Awards of Merit.

Of special note: Gene's original watercolor image of the Herreschoff's 1893 Family Sailing/Motor Yacht is exhibited in the world famous Herreschoff Museum in Bristol, Rhode Island. Gene's original watercolor sailboat image "Misty" has been published in North Light Publishing's book - SPLASH 8 - "Best of Watercolor".