



PARTICIPATING ARTIST

JILL MCGANNON

Jill McGannon completed her BFA in Drawing and Painting from the University of Georgia in 1985 and earned her MFA in 1988, also from UGA, and has made a living as an artist ever since. She was able to attend the UGA Studies Abroad Program in Cortona, Italy, and used her photos of Italy to paint murals in Italian restaurants in Chicago for the 8 years she lived there.

Jill began painting plein air in 1994 when she returned to Cortona as Artist in Residence for the UGA program. She also showed at Addington Gallery in Chicago, and took workshops with Gregg Kreutz, David Leffel, Terry Miura, and others. Jill has been painting the marsh in the Hilton Head Island, SC area since the early 80s, when her family bought a condo there, and has been primarily painting the marsh for the last seven years. She is happy to be showing her coastal paintings at Four Corners Gallery in Bluffton, SC. She also loves painting the mountains in Blue Ridge, GA, and is now showing at High Country Art in Blue Ridge. She lives in the Atlanta area and shows her large work in Atlanta at Mason Fine Art. The smaller plein air works are often used as references to paint larger paintings in the studio. Jill teaches oil painting at Johns Creek Arts Center.

Up before dawn, I'm standing on the edge of the marsh with the sun coming up, bathing the tops of the trees with a warm glow. There's a cool cast shadow on the marsh grass, and it's all reflected in the water. The quiet is broken only by an egret fishing nearby. I try to paint slow enough to get the drawing, values, and color right, but fast enough to finish the painting before the light changes. Every now and then, my concentration is broken for a second as I look around to make sure there aren't any alligators around! The light has changed now, but I'm finished. I leave with my painting and a sense of satisfaction. I've learned something new today, some subtle color or value change, or drawing correction that I didn't notice the last time I painted plein air. There are so many beautiful things in the world that I never run out of things to paint. I never tire of trying to capture the magical beauty of light. - Jill McGannon