

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 40 works on show
August 30-Sept. 14, 2008
AddisonArtGallery
43 Route 28
Orleans, MA 02653
(508) 255-6200

• SHOW LOCATION ORLEANS, MA

ELIZABETH PRATT

Technical virtuosity

Elizabeth Pratt is definitely having a busy summer. Along with her much-anticipated retrospective at the Cape Cod Museum of Art, Pratt will also have a solo exhibition of more than 40 of her always innovative watercolors at the AddisonArtGallery in Orleans on Cape Cod.

As a 25-year resident of the Cape, Pratt is quite adept at painting the landscapes and seashores she sees around

her everyday. However, her true calling card is not so much her understanding of these places, but the way she captures them through her watercolor techniques.

“The invention of hot press papers in the 1960s expanded watercolor’s ability to achieve amazing textures,” says Pratt. “The paint stays on the surface and can be manipulated with various tools as well as with brushes. Color vibrancy, abstract shapes, tactile representations

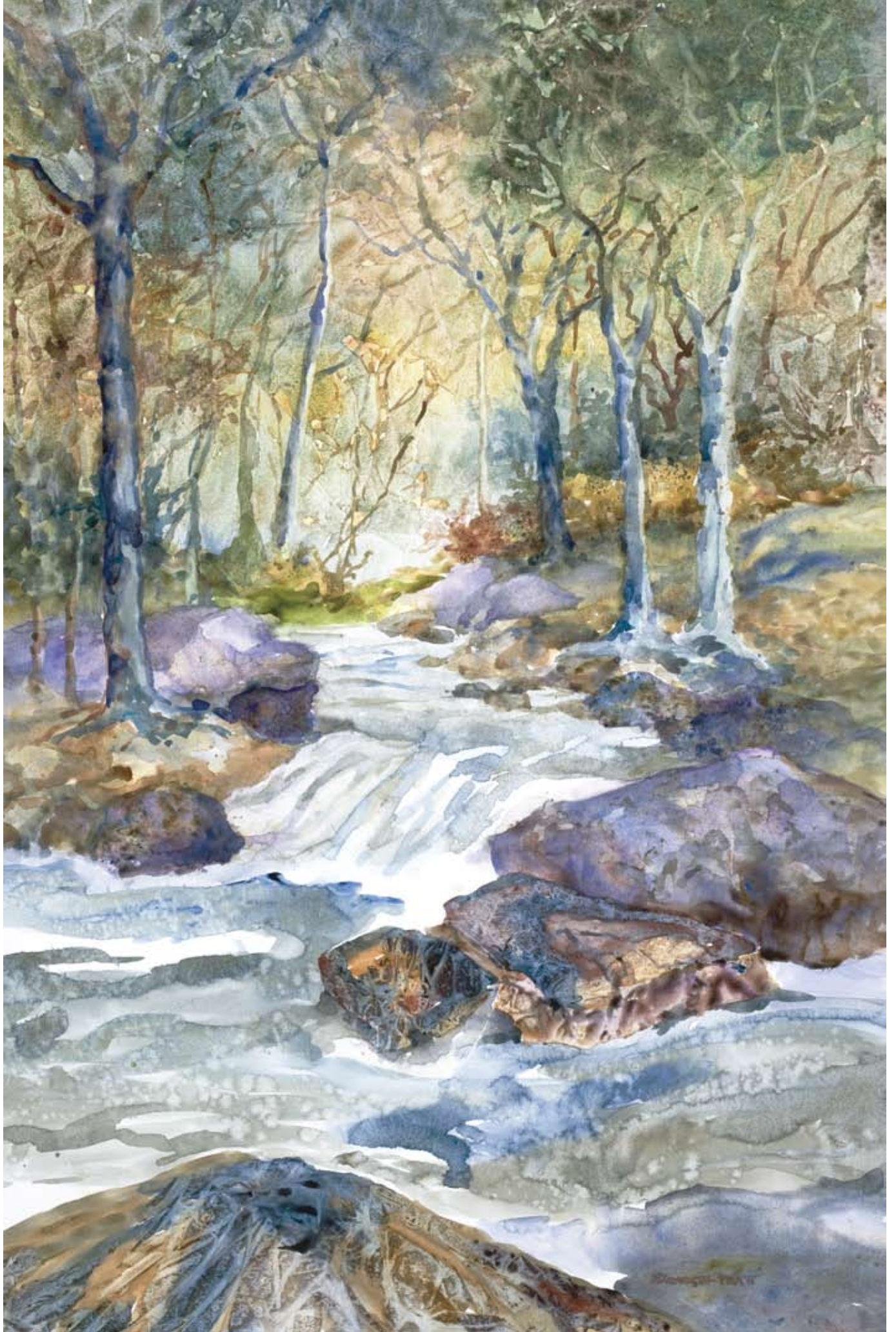
and lighting extremes are enhanced without a preset plan. I let the medium lead me.”

After working in watercolor for a majority of her career, Pratt has an intense understanding of the medium that allows her to experiment with different types of effects, including using crinkled paper, wax paper, plastic, tissue paper, salt and different kinds of inks.



▲ THE MILL POND, WATERCOLOR, 19 X 26"

CRESCENDO, WATERCOLOR, 29 X 19" ►





BREAKING ON THE BAR, WATERCOLOR, 15 X 23"

The Collectors Say . . .

"We find Elizabeth Pratt's work irresistible. She shares our love of the natural world, and we are fascinated by the texture and play of light and shadow that she achieves with various techniques. We are especially fond of her paintings that draw the viewer in with filtered light coming through trees or swirling through an underwater scene."

— Nancy and Roger Holt

Elizabeth Pratt with her piece, Sweeping In.





PURE GOLD, WATERCOLOR, 17 X 22"

"The works evolve on paper through 'accidents' and my imagination," says Pratt. "Paintings of fish and birds are ideal for this as the subjects can be woven in during the final steps toward completion of a piece. Landscapes begin as abstracts, and the nature I know emerges. If painterly effects appear in jeopardy, I stop and leave the essence."

This technique is something that Pratt is always expanding upon in order to keep her work fresh and with a certain sense of vitality. She is adamant about keeping a spontaneous feel to the work and refuses to plan out something until she is face-to-face with the blank paper that will soon become one of her watercolors.

"Even now, having completed over 2,000 watercolors, I feel the rush of excitement when the first colors go down," says Pratt. "Flowing freely, uncontrolled, meandering in a way more beautiful than

I could have ever imagined. I quickly tilt, drop in more colors, imprint, spray, spatter, continually looking for the direction the painting is taking. It's a game of nerve and of spontaneous decisions. The paint always wins, and I'm glad to be on its team."


Now 80, Pratt is an active member of the Copley Society and the New England Watercolor Society. Along the way, she has picked up a variety of collectors and fans, including artists like Robert Douglas Hunter.

"I have known Elizabeth Pratt since 1979," says Hunter. "We met initially at the Copley Society in Boston where she frequently shows her fine watercolors. Her skillful use of this medium is legend in New England. Few watercolorists can equal her use of transparent washes. She manages to convey the look of nature with a whimsical allegorical component."

Collectors are also drawn not only to her subject matter but to the grace and ease

with which she utilizes the inherent aspects of what can be a rather difficult medium.

"Elizabeth is an incredible artist and what she does with watercolor is truly unique," says collector Betty Currie. "We have at least a dozen of her paintings of sea gulls, jelly fish and landscapes in our homes on Cape Cod and Vero Beach, Florida." ●

For a direct link to the exhibiting gallery go to  www.americanartcollector.com

Price Range Indicator

Our at-a-glance Price Range Indicator shows what you can expect to pay for this artist's work.

	Small	Medium	Large
2008	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$2,000