

Jan's Gems

Inspirations on a Road Trip . . .

Driving along the Malheur River in Eastern Oregon on a blustery spring day I found new inspiration. Although I work in different mediums, I am first a painter in pastel and oil. I started snapping pictures on my phone to capture the beauty of the Eastern Oregon palette. It was a day with amazing thunder clouds over the colors of sage, juniper, and rim rock that got my creative juices flowing. The very blue sky with white and almost lavender billowy clouds contrasted with that wonderful spring sage green and orangey rock. I was truly fascinated, and luckily my husband, Rob, was in the driver's seat. Otherwise, it would have been a very long journey home stopping to capture one changing moment after the next. I realized in studying my pictures and selecting what I would use as reference to that day, colors so different from the palette I've used in other landscapes and seascapes. I was challenged anew to accommodate the subtle hues of desert and sage. How fantastic for a colorist!

As an aside, I've travelled this stretch along the Malheur before, and always admired its beauty, but now it seemed as though I was seeing it for the very first time.

I have just started my series of paintings from that trip, and below demonstrate the transition from watercolor start to pastel finish. I hope some of you will be able to see some of these new paintings in my studio.



