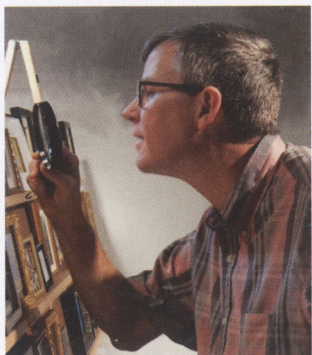


## Wes Siegrist



Wes Siegrist was an established watercolorist for a decade when he stumbled head over heels in love with miniature art in 1997. He and his wife, Rachelle, soon made miniature painting their niche and have been specialists in the field ever since. While primarily a wildlife artist in focus, Siegrist is also adept at a diverse variety of subject matter ranging from still life to human portraiture.

An active member of the Society of Animal Artists (SAA), the Miniature Art Society of Florida (MASF), the Miniature Artists of America (MAA), and the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, DC (MPSGS), he currently serves as the MAA Historian and as a SAA Vice-President. He regularly lectures on the topic of miniature art history and miniature art societies. As an author, Siegrist has published several books: *Modern Masters of Miniature Art in America*; *Exquisite Miniatures* by Wes & Rachelle and *The World of Nature in Miniature*; *Paintings* by Wes and Rachelle Siegrist.

Siegrist, along with Rachelle, currently has an ongoing museum exhibition tour, EXQUISITE MINIATURES, featuring over fifty of their miniature paintings that encompass twenty-five different venues across America. A comprehensive overview may be viewed at: [www.artofwildlife.com](http://www.artofwildlife.com).

Wes' paintings have been part of exhibitions such as *American Art in Miniature*, *American Wildlife Art*, *Art of the Animal Kingdom*, *Art of the Dive: Portraits of the Deep*, *Art of the Rainforest*, *Arts for the Parks*, *Birds in Art*, *Blossom I & II*, *Endangered Species: Flora and Fauna in Peril*, *Kentucky National Art & Wildlife Exhibit*, *Paws & Reflect: The Art of Canines*, *The Sea of Cortez* and the Society of Animal Artists' *Art & the Animal Annual Exhibitions*. He is an annual award-winning participant in a variety of miniature art exhibitions and regularly exhibits at the nation's premiere wildlife art shows including: The NatureWorks Art Show & Sale, Tulsa, OK; The Plantation Wildlife Arts Festival, Thomasville, GA; The Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, Charleston, SC and the Waterfowl Festival, Easton, MD. Siegrist's miniature paintings have been displayed in more museum venues than any other living artist.

He and his wife Rachelle reside in Townsend, Tennessee beside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park where they enjoy hiking, biking and gardening.

## Judge's Statement

I always feel rushed trying to see the exhibition each January while it's on display. Since I'm often jurying for the MAA or talking with peers and collectors while looking, I tend to leave wishing I'd had more time. What an honor and joy for MASF to ask me to spend two days really looking close! The leadership and volunteers of MASF made the task go like clockwork and they easily overcame any glitches encountered along the way. The quality of the entries made the task both a joy and a challenge and I thought I'd share some of my general thoughts and impressions as a judge ... as well as my applied biases!

After looking at each category presented in its entirety, I chose what impressed me to further review for the allowed awards and alternates. I found it EXTREMELY tough to choose the "best" piece from individual artist's works so many times! This is where I employed my biases the most: overall presentation and size. If I considered both works equal, I went with the one that had the better framing and presentation. I also tended to choose the smaller "packages" for their added charm.

MASF founder, Bede Zel Angle, described the essence of miniature art as a game of quality effectiveness in relation to size. One might say, making the mini appear grand! I looked for refined technique in addition to the usual artistic guidelines. Typically, a work needed to continue to impress me when I looked really close. I made a few exceptions for what I considered to be masterful examples of the medium.

Finally, I wish to thank each of the artists that poured their artistic heart into their creations and took the time to enter the show. Special thanks to the MASF family ... they seem that way to me after so many years of being part of this great group ... for their dedication to miniature art. Specifically, I'd like to thank Mike Petryszak and Barb Robertson for their assistance with the procedures and commiserating with me when my choices felt nigh impossible.