"Sunrise Rose"
by Sandy Haight, Bainbridge Island

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This painting appears to be an abstract but it's a photorealistic watercolor painting of a yellow rose viewed so close-up that it becomes a sky at sunrise, or a bright tree fungus or maybe the peel of an orange fluttering your way. The image was captured at Butchart Gardens near Victoria, BC which is flower porn for plant lovers! More vivid blooms than you can imagine confront you at every turn, all healthy and in harmonious beds with other flowers.

When we pause to notice, there is something not only instructive but powerfully inspiring about forms in nature, especially those that are alive with an expression of beauty. To me, the lure of flowers is compelling and beyond words when up-close and personal, and so I paint what I have come to call my 'Floralscapes', the mysterious landscape inside the bloom. Through layers of watercolor glazes I build an impression that is both accurately realistic and yet abstractly surreal in composition. I have always loved the sensuality of this medium, the glow of the colors and the fact that the paint moves and flows on its own, intermingling with other colors.

After a career in commercial illustration, I taught watercolor classes at Bellevue College from 2008 until I moved from Seattle in 2017. I enjoy helping students learn to control the watercolor process. Inspiration from teaching created a renewed interest and immersion into painting subjects I love. This work can be seen on my fine art web site at **http://www.sandyhaightfineart.com**.

I'm a **Signature member of the Northwest Watercolor Society** and **winning awards!** I have shown my work in the Seattle area, Bainbridge Island, Port Townsend, Anacortes, San Diego, Wisconsin and Cannon Beach. I've been the poster artist for the Bainbridge Island Garden Tour (2015) and Skagit Valley Tulip Festival (2016), bridging my career in illustration together with my fine art Floralscapes.