

## ***Ladd Bjerneby***

### **Biography**

Ladd Bjerneby was born and raised in Kalispell, Montana. His mother, a teacher, was a portrait artist and weaver and his father was a jeweler. He did his first oil painting at age five. Ladd studied watercolor under Karen Leigh at Flathead Valley Community College. At Pacific Lutheran University, he studied drawing under Dennis Cox, Walt Tomsic and Ernst Schwidder; and landscape painting under Jens Knudsen, graduating with a B.A. in Biology. After beginning graduate work at the University of Washington, he withdrew to enter seminary. In 1983, Ladd's design was chosen in competition to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. He designed subsequent logos for the fiftieth anniversary of the Going-to-the-Sun Road and for Glacier's seventy-fifth anniversary. His work was shown in several Montana galleries from 1976 until 1986. Following his graduation from Luther Seminary, there was less time for painting as he served congregations as pastor. Most paintings went to nonprofit auctions.



Entering semi-retirement, Ladd joined the artists' coö্প Avenue West Gallery, and began to paint regularly again. In 2019 he retired fully and now has time to devote to art, that is, when he's not hiking and getting inspired for the next nature or landscape painting. He finds painting in oil and acrylic as well as his old favorite, watercolor, gives a great range of expression and ability to share varied subjects. In 2020 Ladd moved into a new home with a spacious studio upstairs. From his Liberty Lake home, he looks beyond his drawing board to Antoine Peak and the hills where he loves to hike.

### **Artist's Statement**

My paintings are not intended to be simply about the art works themselves, but about the nature that surrounds us, refreshes us, brings peace, calm and health. A day is not complete for me without a daily walk, hike or ski. It's not my aim to be photographic. My aim is to be painterly enough that you can see the strokes of the brush, the texture of the paint on the paper, and so discern some of the process that came to make the image. Watercolor, in particular, allows brilliant shine and deepest shadows, and lends itself exceptionally well to painting nature in all its variety. Painting is a very human activity and connects us to generations of painters' work.

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