



## Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Susan J. Klein

Susan J. Klein was born in Dayton, Ohio, and now lives in Sarasota, Florida. She has been painting and exhibiting for over forty years, consistently winning awards and recognition. After receiving a master of fine arts degree from Kent State University, she taught at Youngstown State University and the University of Akron. She also owned and directed The Steel Street Experimental Gallery in Youngstown, Ohio. Moving to Florida in 1990, she rejoiced in her adopted state and devoted herself to painting. She discovered the wonders of the Florida landscape in the imagery at Myakka River State Park and the beaches of the “Suncoast.” Trips to Europe, the American Southwest and her National Park artist-in-residencies continue to enrich and expand her *oeuvre*. Her paintings, “Clay Gully Creek” and “Resurrection Fern” were selected to be exhibited as part of the United States Department of State Art-in-Embassies Program, the first in Italy and the latter in Bulgaria. Other fine paintings are included in prestigious public and private collections, nationally and internationally.

The Artist States:

Travel to different landscapes excites my senses and imagination and re-ignites my creative spirit. Each painting is special and specific to a given place and time. My work is highly detailed. I am obsessed with giving shape to the painting’s content from the first moment that I become aware of its presence within the landscape; that is, for me the composition of the painting and its meaning are there in the landscape. I isolate and make the composition clearly visible with a sketch. I then work from the shorthand of the sketch. As I work the sketch conveys the necessary creative memories through the energy of the drawn line—memories of how that place and that particular configuration of trees and sky, water and grass, along with breezes and fragrances, made me feel—and there I find my content. I paint to the content picking and choosing whichever bit of technical magic or expressive color will get me there. “There” being the complete and clearly defined individual statement of each wonderfully unique painting.