



*"Plum Blossom, Spring, and Iris" by Carolyn Lord*

*Watercolor, 10" x 14"*

### A traditional subject with contemporary space and form

Cezanne is referred to as "the father of modern painting" because he challenged the traditional use of deep space in painting. Here, **Carolyn Lord** gives her work a more contemporary look by flattening the shapes and limiting the pictorial space. By abandoning traditional space and form description, she has transformed this very traditional subject into a more personal image. We sense in her efforts the presence of her heart and mind.

Flowers are a popular subject for many watercolorists and demand a personal interpretation to be considered as art.

### Figure and ground

In **Mary Scarborough's** exciting painting the flower petals appear to emerge from the red ground. By working from a flat red ground, she maintains consistent shallow pictorial space. Her modeling of the petals creates a subtle illusion of form and is in contrast to the flat background. Her thoughtful placement of the white shapes is vital to the success of this painting. By grouping the largest and most of the smaller white shapes in the top right corner of the image and then repeating a few similar shapes below, she connects her design into a whole.

The visual impact of this image is created by the dominant red. Red is a powerful hue and when it dominates this much of the painting area, it conveys a clear declaration, by the artist. Declarations of any kind personalize an image and are evidence of the painter's feelings and thoughts.



*"Red Flower" by Mary Scarborough*

*Watercolor, 22" x 22"*