



**ARTIST OF THE
MONTH
Shirley I. Marks**

After painting in the disciplined way of Chinese brush painting for 17 years, I felt a deep need to change my direction. In letting

loose my creativity and letting my colors flow freely opened a new and exciting concept to my art. It led me to create shapes and images of an impressionistic style of landscape while holding true to my traditional background.

Working in the "PoMo" style of painting is paralleled to the ancient carving of Jade. The stone itself influences and guides the carver's hand in deciding what the jade will become. Similarly, the pouring and moving of paint guides the "PoMo" artist as to the form the landscape will take. The paintings are created on a gold or silk Sikishi board.

The tubes of western watercolors are ground with water to the consistency of thin sour cream. The colors are not mixed on a palette, but rather on the Sikishi board, as one color is moved into the other.

There are different ways of doing "PoMo" -- wet-on-wet or by applying the paint on a dry board. In order for the paint to move in the dry method, water must be applied with a spray bottle or dripped from a large brush. The board is then moved and tipped to move the paint. It is the decision of the artist as to whether the details are applied before or after the "PoMo" and in some cases both.

I have used all these methods, depending on the mood and effect I am trying to portray. Though the "PoMo" artist begins with a basic landscape concept, as the colors move and change with the flow of the paint, so flows the creativity, mood and individuality of each piece of artwork.



By combining the mystery of the Orient and my love of nature, it is my objective to create for the viewer an emotion or mood in relation to the painting. It isn't important what you feel, it is the fact that you do is what makes the artist a success.

Shirley was born in New York City and lived there until she married Herman Marks in 1947. Shirley moved to Herman's hometown, Miami, Florida where she raised their family.

Shirley's art education began in 1972. She studied traditional Chinese brush painting with Chow Chen Chou and Chow Leung Chen Ying. Shirley advanced her studies taking many workshops with Diana Kan. It is through these wonderful teachers and friends that she not only learned their techniques but was taught to develop a style of her own.

During 3 trips to Mainland China, Shirley met with and demonstrated for many artists, including being asked to paint at the very table where the leading artists of Chungqing worked.

Shirley was president of the American Artists Professional League for 2 years. Some other activity include Theatre Arts League, who raises scholarship funds for university students in the performing arts, and an arts and craft annual 2-day program for mentally and physically challenged students.

Shirley is a member of the National Arts Club, NYC, The Salmagundi Club, NYC, Sumi-e Society - International, Florida Professional Artists' Guide, Miami, and GroveHouse artists, Coconut Grover.

Shirley's art will be on display at the Spanish Spring Citizens Bank during the month of November.