

ESTHER J. WILLIAMS FINE ART

Sandy Memories from Crystal Cove Cottages

by Esther J. Williams on 7/25/2011 8:40:32 PM

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Painted en plein air on the 4th of July at Crystal Cove State Beach. This is one of the last cottages on the north shoreline of sixteen decayed cottages that are awaiting renovation. My desire is to paint each of these cottages before they are remodeled. I prefer the rustic character of the past. So, my husband & I picnicked here on the 4th and it was one of those dreamy sunny days, crisp light and warm temps. The beach was crowded but we dragged my art supplies all the way down to a quiet spot. I was thoroughly enjoying myself as I painted this cottage, I loved the shadows caused by the 1pm cast. Everything was going hunky dory. Before I was done, one of our neighbors started to smoke cigarettes and the beach breeze carried it straight towards my lungs. My swimmer lungs can't stand second hand smoke. I was holding my breath, then coughing and walking away, then returned to paint a little more, until he lit up another smoke. I was about to ask him to stop. My husband told me not to. He & I were just admiring how wonderful the painting turned out even

though that guy with his wife was annoying. He seemed to know I was not liking his habit and he lit up again. I got aggravated and yanked my easel upwards to move it, cussing at this guy under my breath. The dam easel flew right up off the tripod and flipped over and down into the sand. Oil paints and painting went face down. I picked up the piece and my heart sank. There wasn't anything I could do but put it carefully away and take it home like it was. In a few days when it dried, I brushed off what was loose but the rest is permanent. Days later, a fellow Facebook artist told me I could've saved it right then by washing the sand off under a faucet. I didn't know that, next time I will try it. The painting has its original character now, all original Crystal Cove sand embedded into it, funny it seems to have stuck in the right spots. A lot of Facebook friends love it this way!

Oh, yes, I laugh about it all now! Some things happen for a good reason!

My husband loves this work and wants to keep it in the family collection, but I can go back to paint this scene and throw a little sand on it if you would like to purchase a similar piece. Just email and ask! A 6x8 like this is \$250 framed. Or \$200 unframed. Of course you can commission me to paint something larger like an 8x10, 11x14, 12x16, 16x20 or 14x18.



Here it is on location that day right before the easel took a flying leap into the sand.



I will be going back to paint there very, very soon!