

Frances Wood

Artist's Statement

Feather light, glowing with color, often in constant movement, the essence of birds is hard to pin down, let alone depict in paint and canvas. For four decades I've tried. Using watercolor and ink and allowing the white of the paper to be part of the image, I've attempted to show the lightness and flightiness of these ethereal creatures.

These bird portraits are the result of two driving forces within me: First, to portray individual species correctly with an ink drawing. Second, I use the flowing nature of watercolor to suggest the bird's movement, the way we actually see birds in nature. Often we only catch a flash of cobalt blue as a Western Scrub-Jay swoops by, a splash of yellow when a Savannah Sparrow lands on a slender stalk of grass, or a quick glimpse of chestnut brown when a Marsh Wren pops up on a reed. And the color may linger for a moment even after the bird moves.