

## DAVE NICHOLS

DAVE NICHOLS is fond of saying that landscapes and seascapes are where his artistic heart dwells. Fortunately for Nichols, he lives on the shores of scenic Lake Whatcom in northwestern Washington, a place that provides him a plethora of picturesque scenery to feed his imagination. “I attempt to interpret these scenes in a way that is true to nature while trying to find the proverbial ‘wow’ factor,” Nichols says.

A retired attorney and superior-court judge, the watercolorist is largely self-taught and says he became seriously immersed in painting as a second career after giving up the gavel. Nichols describes the transition as a challenging change—a move from daily left-brain activities to right-brain pursuits. In terms of style, Nichols says his process includes “letting strong color flow like water” and then watching what happens spontaneously as the “wet paper explodes the paint.” Unlike many watercolorists, Nichols relishes strong contrasts and tends to fill the paper, leaving little negative space. His main mission, the artist says, is to draw viewers into a scene that will trigger an emotion or memory. Nichols is represented by La Conner Seaside Gallery, La Conner, WA.  
—Bonnie Gangelhoff ❖



**Autumn Snow at Dusk, watercolor, 15 x 22.**