

Commission Acquires Original Oil Painting “May Foundry Workers”

The Commission was interested in obtaining an original painting depicting Utah laborers, and Joy Nunn was interested in painting one. So, as it happened, while attending a local art show, Commission employee Deedee Brunatti saw Ms. Nunn’s work and immediately felt it could be a perfect match.

In order to select the subject of the painting, Ms. Nunn visited many construction sites and factories throughout Utah taking photos. The May Foundry was then chosen. The May Foundry has a history with deep Utah roots. It originated in Salt Lake City in 1918 and is still owned by the 4th generation May family where they continue to produce iron and steel casting parts for machines. When the May Foundry first opened its doors, they produced parts for the railroad. Throughout the years, their business moved on to supplying parts for Kennecott and Geneva. They currently employ about 55 people.

The painting itself is done in oils and earned “First Place” for Ms. Nunn at the Utah State Fair. A former employee of the Foundry was impressed with the way Ms. Nunn captured the light which comes through the small, high windows in the factory. The painting depicts an important part of Utah’s workforce and hangs proudly in the Labor Commission Lobby.

About the Artist:

Ms. Nunn is a Utah resident who currently serves as Vice President of the Utah Watercolor Society and Director of Art at the Main, a Utah artists’ cooperative located in the Salt Lake City Library. She is also involved in Canvas and Gavel, a group of artists who display their art each year in a benefit with the proceeds going to “And Justice for All”, which help increase access to justice by supporting free civil legal aid programs for Utah’s most vulnerable citizens. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Art History from George Washington University and currently maintains an art studio in the Rockwood Studios in Sugarhouse.



**Deedee Brunatti, Labor Commission employee, with
“May Foundry Workers” an original painting
by Joy Nunn.**