

**Dale Berry**  
Artist Statement

**Wild, Wicked and Wonderful Watercolors!**

Why do I paint with watercolor paints? Well, because no other medium is so much fun – or so frustrating! They are wild, wicked, and wonderful. Just when I think they will perform in a certain manner, they don't! For the past 12 years I have tried to master certain new skills as I move along this journey.

I've honed my skills of using salt in this exhibit. Salt can create a winter wonderland and has other amazing, dramatic effects. It takes a lot of practice to know the correct dampness of the paper, the colors that respond best, and which type of salt will react for a particular effect. I hope you think that it works well in my painting, *Snuggles with Mommy*.

My next goal was to create a painting that would activate intense, patriotic emotions. The American eagle and the American flag were suggested by my grandson. What could be better?! Bold and vivid color choices for the flag were important to show strength, and the eagle needed to project a fierce, but tolerant persona. This was not my first attempt painting this subject matter, but I hope *Because of the Brave* will give you a moment of national pride.