

Eleanor B. Coble
Award of Figurative Excellence - \$1,000

Eleanor B. Coble attended the Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary, where she studied Fashion Illustration and Design. During her senior year, she worked as a fashion illustrator for the leading women's apparel store in Richmond. She often said that her training as an illustrator helped in her later career as a portrait artist. She painted her first commissioned portrait to pay for expenses to visit Ray Coble, husband-to-be, at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. A Bennettsville neighbor commissioned Eleanor to paint that first portrait, a profile of a child, and over her career, she painted over 500 oil portraits.

Because of her late husband's career in the Air Force, she had the opportunity to live, travel and paint portraits all over the United States. In Boston she studied at the deCordova Museum; in Dayton, Ohio, her portraits were exhibited at the Dayton Art Institute and in Washington, D.C. While in Chapel Hill, N.C., Eleanor had her first solo show at the prestigious Morehead Planetarium Gallery. While stationed at the Air Force Academy in Colorado, Eleanor's paintings hung in dozens of Academy homes. In 1991 the Marlboro County Gallery exhibited her artwork in Bennettsville, S.C., which included portraits of several Bennettsville natives. She loved painting children and had a special talent for capturing their likenesses, once saying that "they are the best critics of their own portraits."

Eleanor Coble is pleased to be able to contribute to Women Artists of the West's 47th National Exhibit.



"Cammie with Parasol"