

## **Susan Hartson**

### ***O'Grey's New Coat***

Pastel on black paper

### **Artist's Statement**

*Walking With Peety* began with Eric O'Grey's story of obesity, isolation, illness and hopelessness. At the end of his rope, he prays a desperate prayer, which is instantly answered with a fullness of hope, and an awareness of God and the beauty around him. Dr. Preeti Kulkarni turns his life around with the suggestion to follow a plant-based diet and adopt a dog. With his new-found faith, and following doctor's orders, Eric's life is transformed.

I chose to illustrate his success in transforming his life, by showing the transformation of his high-rise condo with a new coat of paint. I used symbolism of black and white for his life before, and the brightness of the paint to portray the process of restoring his life from despair to hope. And... Peety likes it!

### **Artist's Bio**

Surrounded by capable artists in my birth family as well as the family I married into, it was easy to allow insecurity about my own artistic ability to intensify. I directed my creative instincts toward sewing and crafts, which had specific instructions. Now, in my sixth decade, I am emerging from those mental barriers, discovering that I CAN paint.

Parenting six children, three of our own, and three fosters, led to a need for a time out. I took a night class from Marciano Martinez - my first experience with watercolor - and I was hooked! I learned the basics, in addition to being challenged to paint creatively, rather than simply copying what I saw, an ongoing struggle.

With retirement, I now have more opportunity to develop a personal style in watercolor, by taking workshops and viewing other artist's work. I enjoy trying to discern how a painting effect has been done.

The transparency of watercolor, the ability to layer colors and still see what's underneath, pulls me in. To watch a painting develop, almost by itself at times, is magical. The paint, liquid and moldable, flowing and blending in unexpected ways, creating its own textures and patterns, reflects what God's Spirit continues to do in my own heart and life.

Email: [sehartson@gmail.com](mailto:sehartson@gmail.com)

### **Art Label:**

Name: Susan Hartson

Title: O'Grey's New Coat

Medium: Pastel on black paper

Size: 14.5 x 18.5"

Price: \$150.00

Prints available upon request