

Sonya Terpening

516 Dunn Court
Grapevine, TX 76051
(817) 488-3001
www.SonyaTerpening.com

Living in Texas gives **Sonya Terpening** inspiration for her art. Terpening doesn't just paint western subjects, she tells stories.

"My paintings are all about the story; be it a modern cowboy herding horses or children running off to school," Terpening explains. "Sometimes the story is as simple as bright sunlight on an old adobe wall or blue shadows falling on new snow."

Lately, Terpening has been painting a series reflecting what she refers to as the "softer side of the West": pioneer women and children. These paintings are inspired by a journal that her great-great aunt wrote when she settled in the Cherokee Strip.

"The cowboys might have explored the West but it was not settled until the women and children came along," she adds.

Terpening's accolades include being invited to the *Prix de West* at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for 17 years. In 2008 she received the gold medal in watercolor at the *Masters of the American West* show. She also was the featured artist at the 2006 *Rendezvous* at the Gilcrease Museum. Last July, Terpening was the inaugural recipient of the Smelser-Vallion award from Oklahoma State University as the artist in residence at the Doel Reed Center for the Arts in Taos, New Mexico.

Upcoming shows include the *C.M. Russell Art Auction* in March, the *Prix de West* in June, and in July her work will be featured in a show at Whistle Pik Galleries in Fredericksburg, Texas.



Sonya Terpening, *A Time to Talk*, transparent watercolor, 34 x 26"



Sonya Terpening, *Just a Dusting*, oil on linen, 24 x 30"



Sonya Terpening is currently working on a series inspired by a journal that her great-great aunt wrote when she settled in the Cherokee Strip.



"The Waiting Place" 20 x 30 Oil

Sonya Terpening

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