New Source of Inspiration at Headquarters Office

by Susan Fisk

The ASA, CSSA, and SSSA headquarters office in Madison, WI has a new source of inspiration—in the form of artwork. “Terran,” a watercolor by Terry Meyer, was installed last September. Terran is a set of five watercolor panels, each depicting an area of our science. Individually, they are lovely. But, when combined, the synergy is obvious. The analogy to ASA, CSSA, and SSSA is clear: each Society is separate, but when there is collaboration, the success is greater.

Upon first look at the art, it’s hard to believe this richly colored art is watercolor, not oil paint. “I use more paint than the typical watercolor artist,” Meyer says. “That makes the colors more saturated.” He has been working in watercolors for 15 years, after dabbling in oils, sculpture, and other various art forms. He worked as a special education teacher for many years, doing his art “on the side.”

He painted each panel on paper affixed to a canvas base. A varnish coat protects the watercolor from UV light and negates the need for glass. This was an important consideration for a piece of art that is 7 by 10 ft.

Panel 1 depicts the “bedrock and aquifer,” according to Meyer, “the foundation of all your sciences.” Meyer studied our sciences before creating a draft drawing and painting, and the headquarters staff gave him feedback on the draft early this summer.

“As you move from panel 2 to 3, you see the soil getting finer. Panel 3 is the prairie, and the root system is visible.” He chose corn (Panel 4) and wheat (Panel 5) for his crop art.

“Terry took a blank, tan wall and turned it into the focal point of our building,” says Ellen Bergfeld, ASA, CSSA, and SSSA CEO. “His passion for the subject matter is articulated through the use of vibrant colors and the overall size of the piece. It really draws the eye upwards as you enter the building, providing context to staff and visitors alike regarding the agricultural and natural resources sciences.”

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New Corporate Member

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