



A Look Back at the Boulder Star Holiday Card – and the ‘Light still Shines!’

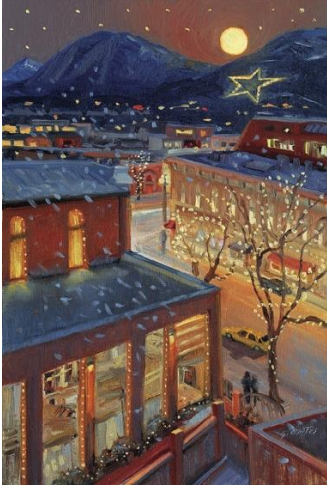
For many local residents, the winter holiday season doesn't begin until the lighting of the iconic Boulder Star on Flagstaff Mountain. Traditionally first set aglow in November on Veteran's Day, the 'The Boulder Star' serves as a beacon from afar that guides us to a place where we find the warmth of a community befitting of the Boulder Star glow.

The Star first began to shine in 1947 as the brainchild of Boulder Chamber business leaders. Now it's time to shed light on another Chamber tradition born of the Boulder Star - the Boulder Star Holiday Card.

During the 1980s, when the Boulder Star fell into disrepair, the Boulder Chamber led efforts to fund repairs and took responsibility for its upkeep through numerous fundraising campaigns and volunteer efforts. Since then, local electrician Craig Reynolds has taken it upon himself to actively preserve and annually provide the Boulder Star with the necessary upgrades and upkeep prior to its seasonal lighting, with the help of several major sponsors.

In 2001, Craig was also part of the Boulder Chamber's Leadership Fellows Program (still going strong). Craig's group also included Karen Ripley Dugan, Susan Graf, and Don & Collen Van Winkle. This team developed a capstone project to aid in the Boulder Stars upkeep by enlisting local artists to design a holiday card, featuring the Boulder Star. Since 2002, this project has been wildly successful, and today is the major source of funding for keeping the Star shining. Another source of funding is a Boulder Star Holiday Wine, featuring the Boulder Star Holiday Card image on the label, produced by Boulder's Bookcliff Vineyards, in addition to numerous private donations.

2003 – Gayle Crites



I worked from the parking platform at Spruce (off Broadway) to create a second painting of the Star. I was on the third floor looking into the back of the Boulder Bookstore. I like to work on location from life...and this perspective at night allowed for another rendering of the star at holiday time, including the lights of windows, traffic, the stores and holiday lighting. As I had included the moon in the 2002 painting, I added it once again in the night sky for this 2003 piece.

2004 – Tatjana Meyerowitz

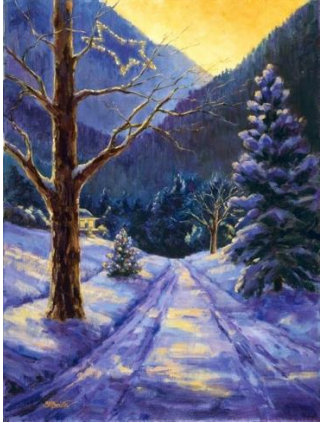


Originally painted for an exhibition of paintings at MacLaren Markowitz Gallery in Boulder, this particular pastel on paper was painted from a sketch done on Pearl Street and features the Mall as a skating rink. One of my favorite Boulder scenes to paint was the Pearl Street Mall in various seasons - the winter one in particular is a favorite with various Boulder landmarks scrambled in the mix.

2005 – Sallie K. Smith



I visited the Legion Park overlook east of Boulder at sunset to gather photos of the beautiful Boulder Valley as source material for this painting. I wanted to use the Star as an inspirational presence above the vibrant city below with the majestic Rocky Mountains as backdrop.

2006 – Sallie K. Smith

On a snowy evening I walked the neighborhoods west of the city to appreciate the feel of coming home for holidays in our special hamlet of Boulder. At this perspective the star is a large and comforting presence as we visit family and friends to celebrate Christmas. As I walked I felt the warmth of the houses, smelled the smoke of wood fires, and heard the crunch of snow below my feet. I could image the celebrations inside the homes and I hoped that the painting would bring the viewers along with me and into the holiday spirit.

2007 – Sallie K. Smith

This painting was titled *Visitors* and guided by the star these three horses find themselves drawn into the beautiful Boulder Valley. They are metaphors for the Three Wise Men.

2008 – Linda Sole Faul

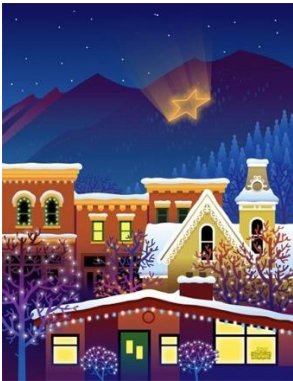
The lighting of the Star, nestled on the top of the flatirons, inspired me to create this painting during the winter season. I love to paint with bright brilliant colors and a little touch of fantasy, so I created a landscape that gives you the feeling of the magical sunset colors. The Christmas lights lit up on the pine trees give us the feeling of Christmas during the Boulder season.

2009 – Linda Sole Faul



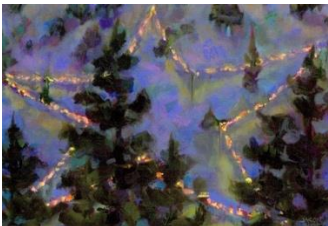
The Boulder Star was an inspiration for my 2009 landscape of the Flatirons. I have lived in Boulder since 1973, and the sight of the Flatirons ignited my creative forces. The lighting of the Star symbolizes hope and freedom for our community. The beauty and unique geologic formations of the area allowed me to paint this native mountain area. My hope is for the public to enjoy my representation of this magical Boulder winter scene!

2010 – Steve Lowtwait



The image of the Star with its outline glowing to a bright starlit sky, overlooking downtown Boulder offers a unique perspective. The feel has a Victorian flare, with holiday lighting in the forefront and the Star acting as a beacon to travelers from afar drawing them to Boulder.

2011 – Jason Emery



Being in the Boulder area for many years I have visited the Star several times. Always wonderful to be under the lights, up close. I love how the Star's lighting is so low tech. My painting is based on sketches done earlier in the year, and a photograph I borrowed. My intent was to capture the nighttime peace and quiet of place.

2012 – Sallie K. Smith



Back by popular demand, the Boulder Chamber reissued Sallie Smith's 2005 artwork.

2013 – Compilation Box Set



The Boulder Chamber issued a five-card compilation box set of five previous popular Boulder Star Holiday Cards that included the selected images from years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, & 2010. It was a huge success, showcasing local artists and looking back throughout the years.

2014 – Theresa Haberkorn



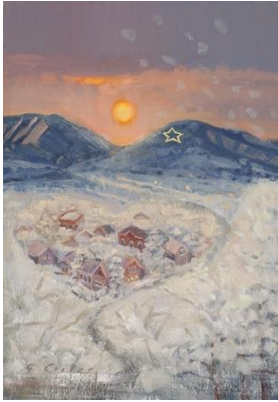
I live in the lower Chautauqua neighborhood. Every evening in winter as I would drive up the hill, the star on Flagstaff would beckon me home. I had been mulling over the idea of creating an artwork about the star when I had been asked by the Boulder Chamber to create a piece for the Star Card. Though the artwork had to be created in summer, I drew upon photographs I had taken of sledders from the previous winter as my inspiration. The three people with their various snow toys are hiking back up the hill for another run, drawn by the light of the star that illuminates the snow.

2015 – Lori Hight

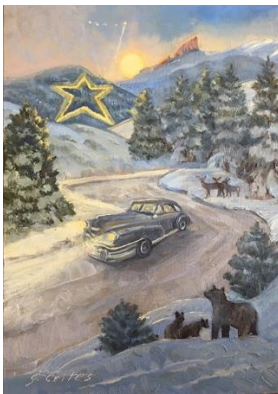


As a Boulder native, I've always thought about the star as one of the special things about this place...attached as it is to the mountains we so fortunately have as our backdrop! When I was asked to create artwork about the star, I began running ideas through my head on how to depict this icon in a recognizable way, but in a manner that hadn't been done before (by several of the best artists I know). My answer came by way of looking out my window. I noticed the lovely corona of color over the dark mountains at dusk – and I created my painting; a glowing sky and star. Each of us has our own view of the star...and this is mine.

2016 – Gayle Crites



2017 – Gayle Crites



2018 – Amanda Lenz



Amanda Lenz is a professional illustrator and designer working and living in Boulder, CO. Her work brings warmth and color to advertising, animation, magazines, books, packaging, and the web. The beauty of Boulder, CO is a perfect muse for her creativity and provides a great escape. When she's not drawing, Amanda loves to hike, trail run and garden.

www.lenzillustration.com.

2019 – Kathleen Lanzoni



Kathleen Lanzoni is an award-winning artist formally trained at the Art Institute of Boston and the Massachusetts College of Art, from which she received a BFA. She grew up in both Montreal and California and for over 27 years has enjoyed the endless subjects offered by living in Boulder, Colorado.

www.kathleenlanzoni.com.

2020 – Julia Williams (The Designosaur)



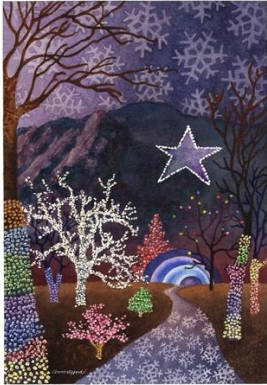
Julia Williams (aka The Designosaur) is an artist, muralist, illustrator, and Colorado native. Her work takes inspiration from festival culture, nature, and dance influences, and often includes strong female characters, animals, neon colors, and space. She strives to create artwork that feels otherworldly and invokes a sense of wonder and mystery for the viewer. For more information about Julia and her work please visit www.TheDesignosaur.com

2021 – Will Betke-Brunswick



Will Betke-Brunswick is a transgender and nonbinary cartoonist and a recent graduate from the California College of the Arts MFA in Comics program. Will is also in the inaugural class of The Community Foundation's TRENDS Reporting Fellowship program, a year-long training for people interested in reporting in depth on the community's social, economic and environmental health. Will's comics are about uplifting the trans community through humor, sharing information, and personal stories. Will's graphic memoir will be available Fall 2022! Learn more about their work on Instagram @transboycomics or at willbetkebrunswick.com.

2022 – Anne Gifford



Anne Gifford paints with watercolor where she builds successive layers of color to create her vibrant, rich, and detailed paintings. She has lived in Boulder since 1976 and finds inspiration in the natural beauty of Colorado. Light, shadows, rocks, water, mountains, canyons, wildlife and whimsy are all part of her subject matter as she brings her own unique vision to her work. For more information about Anne and her work, please visit: <https://www.annegifford.com>

2023 – Daria Chechushkova



Daria Chechushkova was born and grew up in the City of Vladimir, Russia, where she learned to appreciate picturesque medieval architecture. Along with a master's degree in ancient history, she developed her passion for painting by creating local postcards and tourist guides. In 2022, she came to the U.S. as an act of her disapproval of Russian imperialism and in an attempt to find her place in the free world. Follow her on Instagram [@chechu_illustrator](https://www.instagram.com/chechu_illustrator).

2024 – Kristen Ross



Kristen Ross is a landscape painter based in Boulder, Colorado. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Rhode Island School of Design. Her work is exhibited in galleries across Colorado and is held in collections throughout the United States. Moved by the post-impressionist and expressionist movements' treatment of light, color, and movement, Ross uses layers of vibrant color and linework to convey her impressions while preserving the realistic form of the landscape.

2025 - Danielle Schroeder Kraft



Danielle is a Colorado-based artist known for her warm and textured illustrations celebrating the outdoors, adventure, and food. Her art has been featured in an award-winning column for Edible Magazine, exhibited at the Colorado Chautauqua, and her commissioned pieces live in many private collections. Whether painting delicate botanicals or illustrating a favorite recipe, she colorfully captures the whimsy in the everyday.