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## Filipina Artist Wins Again

Thirty-year-old U.S. Based Filipina artist wins again in an international art competition.

Sherie Sta. Cruz-Sloane, a Filipino artist residing in Illinois bested hundreds of entries in the recent Strathmore ATC & ACEO International Exhibition and Art Competition held in Reno, Nevada.

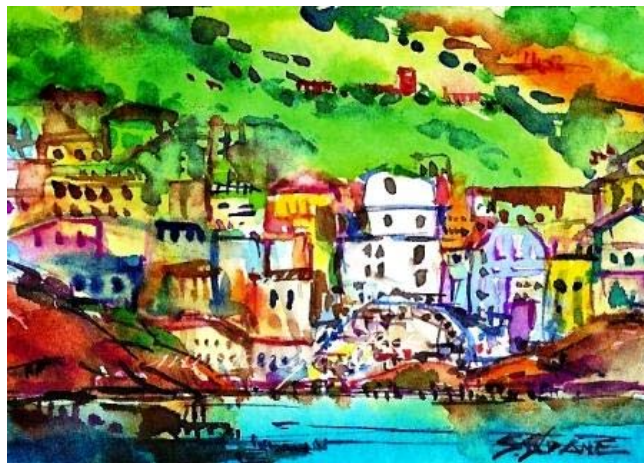
ATCs and ACEOs stand for Artist Trading Cards and Art Cards Editions and Originals. These are individual art miniatures with 2.5 by 3.5 inch size. Some sources have credited M. Vänçi Stirnemann, who began trading sessions in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1997, as popularizing these miniature arts in the modern era, although modern ATCs and ACEOs can be traced back to portrait miniatures and to a kind of business card popular with Impressionistic era artists.

Strathmore Artist Papers, a division of Pacon Corporation located in Appleton, Wisconsin is a leading producer of Paper, Educational Aids and Arts & Crafts products for the school and art markets. Every year, it hosts an art competition opened to all artists worldwide.

This year, their theme highlights the growing popularity of the ATCs and ACEOs among artists and collectors. Professional artists jury the contest and critics during the annual International Art Materials Trade Show in Reno, Nevada held in May. Winners are awarded with cash and certificates.



**Chicago Spring**



**Lakefront**

Two of Sherie's paintings made it to the prestigious competition. Her winning entry 'Chicago Spring' is a watercolor painting of downtown Chicago with the Sears Tower as focal point. It was a scene Sherie captured during one of her bike rides with her husband in Lakeshore Drive. The remarkable details in Sherie's miniature paintings and her painterly approach to her subjects impressed the jurors. The painting was given the highest 'Best of Show' award.

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Recognized as the hardest medium to learn, Sherie has mastered the spontaneity of painting in watercolors. "Retaining the freshness of the paper and paint while quickly delving on each brushstroke is a challenge I have come to embrace. It requires thoughtful planning and wistful creative instinct. Giving in completely to 'touch and go', resisting the urge of going back and winning over the fear of losing the transparency watercolor has been revered for."

Strathmore will also feature Sherie's watercolor painting 'Lakefront' in its new fine art product cover, coming out this Fall. Asked about how she feels with her new achievements, the new mom says, "I'm overflowing with happiness. Taking time out to paint has been a challenge being a new mom. My husband patiently urges me to pick up the brush in between our baby's naptime. My family's support in my art has once again paid off. When I got the news, I showed the award to our little one and told him, 'You made mommy won'. I feel so blessed indeed, more than what I hoped for."

Aside from painting, Sherie also writes weekly in her art blog 'The Morning Artist'. Her inspirational essays, stories and poetry are gaining loyal following since launching her blog last February. The prestigious London-based Saatchi Online Gallery also displays some of Sherie's works. She is also a contributing artist in the popular online gallery, Daily Painters Marketplace. On June 12, Sherie will be doing a live painting demonstration at the Chicago Children's Museum in Navy Pier during the Passport to the Philippines event.

### **Artist's Bio.**

Sherie started painting in oil in 1999 after her father's demise. She found healing in channeling her grief through arts. A self-taught artist, the only formal education related to arts she had was a ten-day painting workshop she attended in 1999 conducted by a local artist. Even early on, her passion for art was strongly reflected in her vibrant works.

She grew up in Antipolo with humble beginnings. Brought up by parents Amadeo and Felisa Sta. Cruz, a local police and housewife, Sherie and her three sisters were taught early the value of creativity and appreciation of simple things in life. Most of the toys and games they loved to play were their own creations. Sherie graduated cum laude with an accounting degree from a state university in Manila. Although her education paved her career towards becoming senior executive in multinational companies, she pursued her love of painting every chance she got.

Prior to arriving in the U.S. in October 2005, she was an active member of The Art Association of the Philippine and The Aquarellists, a water media art group in the Philippines. The group meets every Saturday in Wildlife Park in Quezon City, Philippines to paint and share insights about art and hold their weekly meetings. She is also a member of The Art Association of the Philippines.

She won four prestigious awards in the last two years and her works have been exhibited in various galleries within North America and Asia. Art World Chicago and the renowned Saatchi Online Gallery in London currently display some of Sherie's works.

Sherie lives with her husband Glen in Tinley Park, Illinois and helps in managing their family business. Aside from painting, she also writes weekly in her art blog 'The Morning Artist' and posts her daily paintings in the 'Daily Painters Marketplace' online gallery.

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