

**His Witness Ministries Three Points Art Contest, 2010**  
**3rd Place Winner**



**"The Perfect Rose" by DJ Bates**

DJ Bates has been a member of Garden State Watercolor Society, Montgomery Center for the Arts, Lawrenceville Art Council, Iowa Watercolor Society, Iowa Artists, and Octagon Center for the Arts. Her artwork has been displayed at Capital Health System-Trenton, Edison Arts Society, and Montgomery Center for the Arts at the 1860 House, and has won numerous awards, including several blue ribbons with Iowa Artists and Des Moines Women's Club.

DJ Bates has studied with artists from across the United States, including: Mary DeLoyt-Arendt in Scottsdale, Arizona; Jan Boelte in Kankakee, Illinois; Monica Pate in Ames, Iowa; Roberta Carter Clark painting her portrait magic at a workshop in Des Moines, Iowa; and Lucy Graves McVicker at Montgomery Center for The Arts.

While living in Omaha, Bates displayed and sold her artwork at Lauritzen Gardens in August 2009 and 2010, and worked on commissioned paintings.

After a God ordained turn of events she and her husband now live in southwest Missouri and she looks forward to full time artistic efforts on their oak tree surrounded, stream bordered retreat.

The Perfect Rose was painted in 2004 and won several awards after that. It started with a challenge to paint for a competition in Edison, New Jersey, and became a spiritual journey. The "Perfect Rose" refers to Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed for the "wild roses" of many colors and all walks of life. The cross shaped trellis holds the crown of thorns that is shaped into a heart which references God's love for his people. If you study the painting long enough you will see a lamb hidden in the leaves, waiting to be found and received.

#### The Perfect Rose

Transported to another dimension the Perfect Rose was  
Transplanted into a garden of wild roses  
Transferred to the blank canvas by the painters brush  
Transformed by the glory of God's grace

Transfixed the blood red bloom was pierced for our  
Transgressions forgiven by His death, hung on the  
Transom, the crosspiece which represents the  
Transverse structure on which our Lord was hung

Transfigured into a change in form Jesus was  
Transfused into the light of the world  
Transparent for all to see, the clear way which is  
Transposed into the language of love

Tranquil as the landscape might be

Transcends our vision for hidden in the leaves  
Translated from Heaven as the Lamb of God, His  
Triumphant return we so anxiously await

Transient people though we are, soon we will be  
Transported to our future resting place by the  
Transpiration of His precious blood through the  
Transition of His death, burial, and resurrection

Thank you Lord for all you do and say  
Taking on our sins in a most graphic way  
Thoughtfully providing an escape when we stray  
Thoroughly loving us when to you we pray

Please walk through the garden of this painting and poetry, breathe deeply the fresh scent of life, enjoy the beauty of nature, take time to stop smell the roses, and smile.

Other works by this artist include:

### **Sonlit Vineyard**



**2000 Lily of the Valley**



**Sun Kissed Canna**

