

Janis Howes  
Janis Howes Illustration  
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## **Artist Statement**

My visits to the Skagit Valley over the past several years inspired me to create a painting of the birds I have observed there and the beautiful surrounding farmland area where so many bird species can be found. In particular, the Trumpeter Swans really captured my curiosity. The way they run along the surface of a pond, honking as they take flight, looking so graceful and serene flying above the farmlands. While other Swans looked rather quirky and comical as they splayed their feet coming in for a landing or foraged in the mud with their beaks searching for food. Each year I look forward to visiting the Skagit Valley and I am always pleasantly surprised to see so many different birds in abundance each time I visit. I am thrilled to have my painting, *Trumpeter Swans of Skagit Valley Farmlands*, chosen for the Puget Sound Bird Fest poster this year!

## **Bio**

Janis Howes has worked in the graphic arts for the past 30 years as a graphic designer and illustrator. In 2016 she earned a certificate in Natural Science Illustration from the University of Washington. Some of the places she has shown her work around the Pacific Northwest are Schack Art Center, Everett; Gallery North, Edmonds; Shoreline Arts Festival; Edmonds Arts Festival, the Burke Museum, University of Washington; Phyllis Lamphere Gallery at the Washington State Convention Center. Lately, Janis has been focusing on birds, botanical subjects and other wildlife using colored pencil, graphite, watercolor, gouache and pen and ink. She has a detailed and realistic style that captures the light, colors and natural symmetry of her subjects. Janis is continually inspired by the beauty she finds in the natural world and intrigued by the science behind every subject she illustrates. Janis is a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, Northwest (GNSINW).