



MONTANA TRAILS GALLERY

Nealy May Riley

Nealy May Riley currently lives in Springville, Utah with her daughter Cami and husband David. Nealy and David met in grad school at Savannah College of Art and Design in 2007. After grad school Riley took a job as a graphic designer in Arizona because she wanted a stable source of income. Needless to say, she wasn't really satisfying she wanted to be painting instead of staring at a computer all day. So, they decided to move to Colorado where they thought they could teach a little adjunct at the college there, and then have time to paint. Unfortunately, the adjunct work didn't exactly pay the bills, so they thought, "Hey, we could open a Ballroom Dance Studio and still have time to paint on the side!" Nealy and David had both taken dance training and owning a studio was something they had both always wanted to do. Later on they opened La Puerta Dance Studio in Grand Junction in 2009. The dance studio was an amazing venture for them where they both learned a lot about running a small business, dancing, teaching, making amazing friends, and being part of a wonderful community. However, they still weren't painting on a regular basis while running their small business.

With the birth of their daughter Cami in 2013 they decided the need to refocus their energies if they were going to be artists. They decided to sell the dance studio and moved to Utah where her husband could work with some wonderful artists in the Springville / Salt Lake area and she could take care of Cami and paint in the mornings. Nealy started out feeling a little lost about what she might want to paint until she ran into Daily Painting online and Daily Paintworks. Now Riley really enjoys her daily painting and she is feeling excited about the progress she's making. Nealy is creating small paintings on a regular basis, experimenting with color and subject matter that is readily available. Excited about the future!