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**Subject:** Feathered Sunshine

**Preheader:** Introducing a goldfinch painting for my songbird lovers

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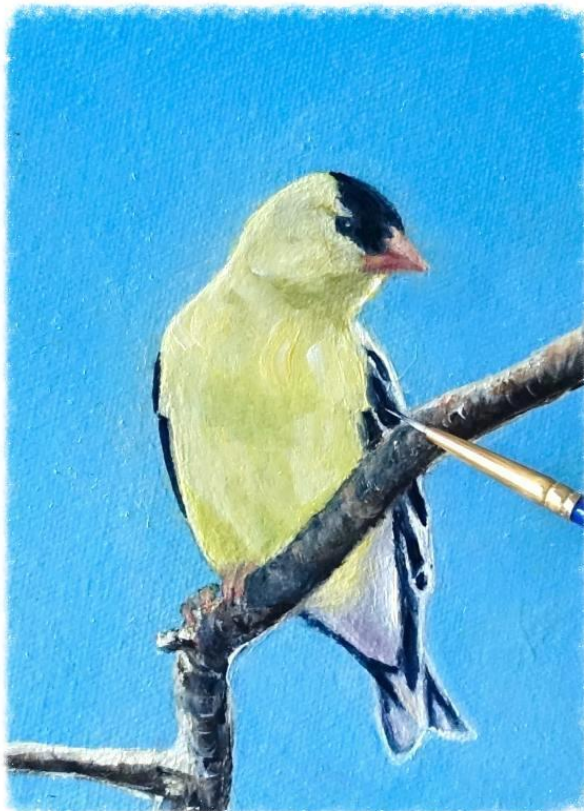
Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Ellen Rice Gallery. Don't forget to add ellenrice@mchsi.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Dear

Hurray for the sunshine! Nestled warmly in my home, sipping hot coffee a long flight of steps above the icy driveway out front, I decided to send you a bright sign of spring ...



This is a closeup part of my new oil painting, *Feathered Sunshine*.

been away and just returned.

At least that's what I thought I was doing by sending previews of "*Feathered Sunshine*" ! I always believed goldfinches went away in the fall and came back in early spring.

Not so - though their bright gold colors are definitely a sign of spring.

Confused? I was. It turns out that along the Mid-Atlantic goldfinches never leave at all. Instead, the more recognizably striking gold, black and white males go incognito for the winter, exchanging their golden plumage for drab olives and browns, perhaps as camouflage during the colder months.

They molt again and reappear as "goldfinches" around April, flaunting their bright gold feathered regalia just in time to draw the eye of their lifetime mate. And this explains what makes many of us think they've

I didn't know it, but goldfinches have long been considered symbolic of good tidings, renewal and resurrection. They've been painted for thousands of years, particularly in ancient religious works of art relating to a tale about the first Easter. Lore says a goldfinch, lover of seeds and thistles, followed Jesus as he carried his cross and seeing his crown of thorns, plucked a thorn from Jesus's forehead where he was bleeding. The story goes on to say a drop of blood got on the goldfinch and that is why some varieties have red spots. Google and Wikipedia are great sources if you're interested in reading more tales about goldfinches.

I started painting "Feathered Sunshine"



Softening shading on branches and adjusting colors of unfurling leaves is my last task on this painting.

*Please keep in mind that digital images cannot - and don't - show true colors.*

for the sheer joy of painting something I love and to be transported to early spring, imagining as I painted the soft warble of the goldfinch, joined by other songbirds, meadowlarks, robins, bluebirds and tiny nuthatches all mingling in a happy winged symphony to announce the beginning of a new day ~ and the warm scents of earth and fresh green tree and flower buds unfurling and soaking up their first rays. I was there....

The winter storm tried hard to get me out of that beautiful space, but

it didn't succeed for more than a moment even when the house shook and shuddered with wind gusts!

The fact is winter can't win and we'll be seeing the bright splashes of gold-feathered finches at our feeders in less than two months. Buds are already on bare branches if you look closely enough. I hope "Feathered Sunshine" serves as a pleasant reminder for you.

The original painting is available as of this writing. It's \$1,920. The painting is 16" x 12" with gallery wrapped, painted sides, so framing isn't required, though it's still an option. If you'd like to speak for this painting and arrange payments, you can [email me](#) or call the gallery at 302-539-3405. I believe this painting will be a wonderful gift for a loved one who delights in songbirds and Valentine's Day is just a couple weeks away.

For all those who have been asking for goldfinch prints, I will have small prints the same sizes as my bluebird painting, [Spring Promise](#), so those who have been asking for more songbirds can hang them together with ease. *Feathered Sunshine* will make a nice contrast to my snowy *Spring Promise*!

You can view *Feathered Sunshine* in person in my gallery beginning tomorrow, Monday, January 25, at 2 p.m. The glowing colors of the original and prints are different (better) than the digital ones you're seeing on your device or monitor. Today, the original painting is being carefully scanned so gicle'e prints can be available next weekend. When they are on my website, you'll find them [here](#).

There will be an introductory offer of \$30 off the two largest sizes (12" x 16" and 9" x 12") through February 14, 2016, Valentine's Day, and a few tiny proofs will be available when the prints debut. You may pre-order now if you choose and get your print specially signed for a bird-loving loved one.

*Sending you warm thoughts from the shore as you dig or wade out of the now out-to-sea debacle called Jonas... think spring!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jones' or similar, with a stylized flourish.