

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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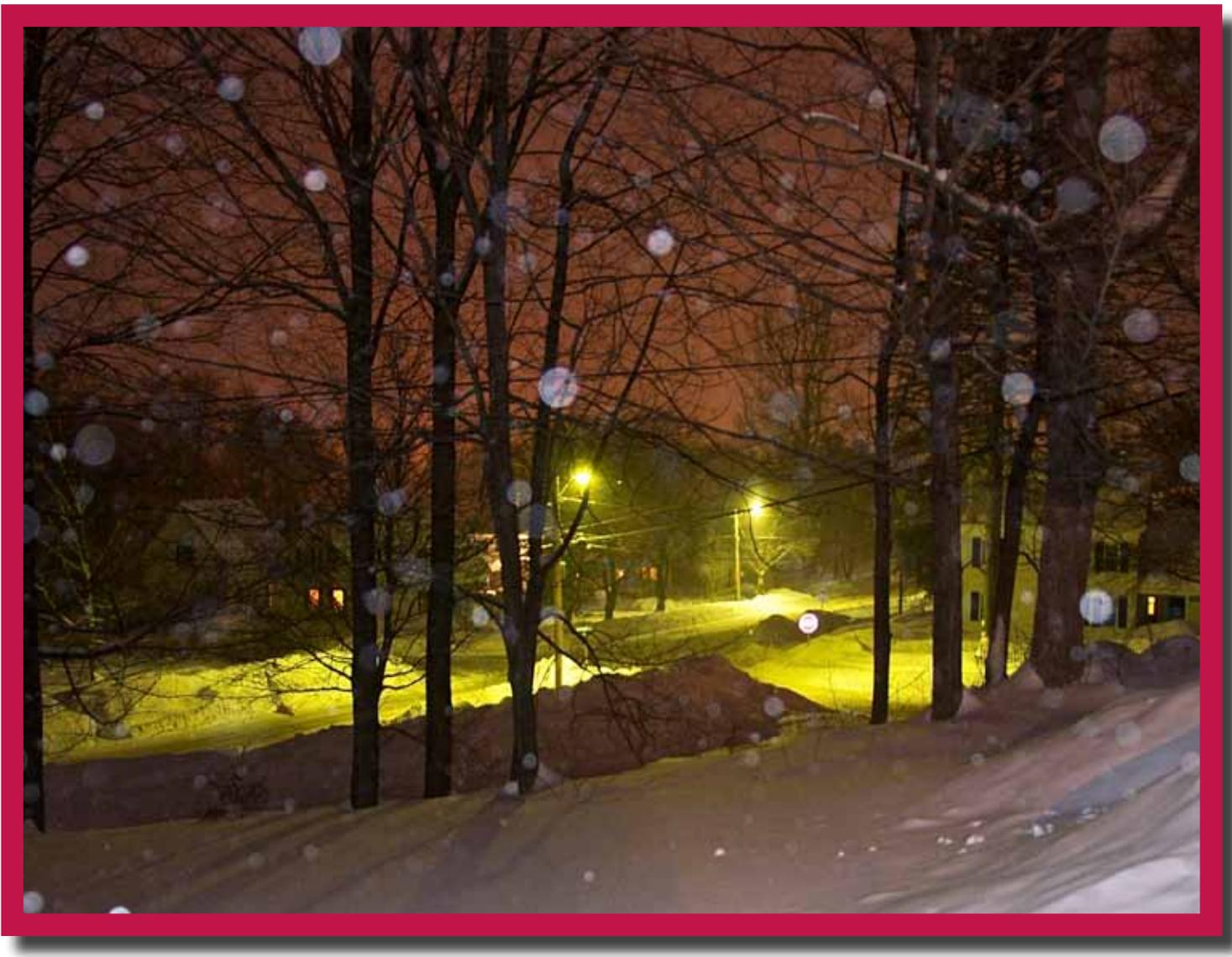
### Winter of a life... snow on the roof and fire in the belly...

The death of Nelson Mandela has been the news this month, and I've been reflecting on his life for a number of reasons. Obviously, this was a great man who established his legacy early as a social activist, a lawyer and later as a symbol of the anti-apartheid movement from within the confines of a state prison for 27 years. Even so, upon his release, his ability to turn his emotions inward in order to proffer himself as the eventual leader to all South Africans, black and white, required tremendous self control and awareness of power in restraint. Viewed as a radical in the beginning, he became a true man of peace and reconciliation and is recognized by his people as the Father of his Nation... much of what he accomplished occurred AFTER his release from prison at AGE 71!

*Being 71 myself*, I really didn't have to stop and think about my own perception of what age means, but I realize how many people (young and old) seem to think a person past 70 is "over the hill"... or almost! I have never given much thought to the measure of life being dependent upon a membership in AARP or the number of candles on a birthday cake! For me, looking forward to my plans for each day is far more worthwhile than dwelling on advancing age as a prison sentence that has only one ending.

THAT is another take-away from the life of Mandela... age is relative, time is all you have... when you are free to use it, don't waste it! When my time runs out, I hope my legacy will reflect the results of time well spent loving and doing, rather than waiting, wasting and worrying.

*So, to all my Friends, Family, Supporters and Acquaintances I wish you also, a Joyful Holiday Season and a Productive New Year!!*



*View North from my Studio--Evening Snowfall*