

Let's Stay Connected



During this uneasy time, we are all missing each other and have had to find different ways to keep in touch and stay connected. We are grateful to have a common interest that unifies us, and we are so pleased that our newsletter is playing a part in keeping our sketching community whole. It is so heartwarming to learn that our newsletter means a lot to you and offers education and inspiration. We are trying to make our newsletter as personal as possible by including your artwork and recommendations. We also hope that our Spotlight articles are helping you to learn more about your fellow sketchers and get to know them better. We would like our newsletter to be even more meaningful - a place to share and exchange creative ideas similar to the way we do during a Show and Tell Session. In the spirit of collaboration and learning, we invite you to add your own contributions. You can recommend articles, books or how-to videos. Share your art tips, materials and techniques or tell us about a new product you have tried and how it could be used for urban sketching. Artists love to share, and we are sure that your fellow sketchers will like what you have to say. So, if you have an idea, or there's something else you'd like to see here, please let us know.

We are looking forward to the time when we can all be sketching together in person again. In the meantime, be creative and be well. We hope you will find some inspiration here.

Cathy and Marianne

10.18.2020

Practice, Practice, Practice



Weekly Theme: Everyday Workers

Look around. Take some time to notice the people who are busy working all around us. You are sure to see construction crews, school crossing guards, police officers, and all those folks who cannot work from home during the pandemic. This week our theme is to depict the worker on paper. We have plenty of models available and the weather is still nice enough to sketch outside.

For more details see:

<http://nyc.urbansketchers.org/2020/10/weekly-theme-everyday-workers.htm>

Sketch by Suzala Zahler



Red-on-red, step-by-step by Shari Blaukopf

Blog post October 1, 2020

Shari took process shots while painting these hot peppers because it was a watercolour challenge for her. Red peppers on a red cloth. What gets painted first? The red subject or the red background?

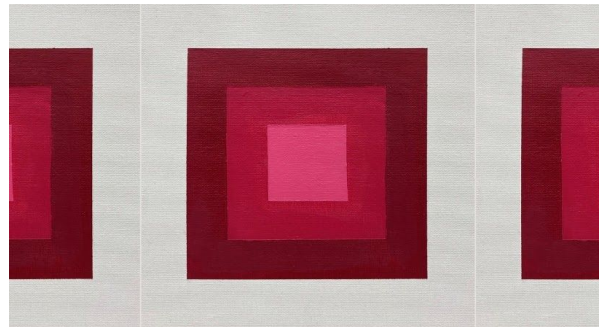
<https://shariblaukopf.com/2020/10/07/red-on-red-step-by-step/>

Learn something new everyday: USkTalks - CLIPS - Eps.7 Shari's Challenge

Shari Blaukopf discusses her challenge with host Rob Sketcherman. Same View Different Hours: Sketch the same view at different times of day. Pay attention to light and shadows and how they change

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wy8vKd6na_E

A colourful relationship: Josef Albers and Winsor & Newton (Part I)



Artists looking for inspiring and exciting ways to work with colour will do well to look and re-look at the work of Josef Albers. His relentless pursuit of the relationship between colours influenced a whole generation of artists, including the Op Art movement. And Winsor & Newton Artists' Oil Colours played a significant role. Here, in the first of two articles, W&N global resident artist, Mathew Gibson, looks at Albers' iconic Homage to the Square series. <https://www.winsornewton.com/na/articles/artists/josef-albers-part-1/>

Travel From the Comfort of Your Home



Armchair Travels: Amsterdam by Veronica Lawlor, October 7, 2002, Reportage Journals

<http://www.veronicalawlor.com/armchair-travels-amsterdam/>

Welcome to [Armchair Travels](#), an invitation to travel around the world through the reportage illustration of [Studio 1482](#). We have gathered art from our travels to share with you in the hopes that, while you can't get out and see these places (yet), our experiences may bring some happiness and light to your day. Please check back often as we will be posting new adventures weekly. Enjoy Amsterdam, by Veronica Lawlor...Amsterdam, jewel of The Netherlands! Home of Rembrandt! City of canals and beautifully colored charm-soaked residential buildings! City of windmills! City of bicycles! City of love and tolerance! *(Can you tell I'm excited?)*

Art Tips, Materials and Product Reviews

How to Make a Sketchbook: DIY Coptic Stitch Bookbinding

Here are some of the sketchbooks that Meredith Spencer has made by hand:



Would you like to try making your own sketchbook? Meredith recommends the following DIY tutorials:

Here is the tutorial for making a Coptic Stitch sketchbook. It's very easy to follow. <https://youtu.be/S2FRKbQI2kY>

Here's the tutorial that shows how to do the Sketchbook covers. <https://youtu.be/TdHo8NtDOXc>

Recommended by Joy Hecht:

WindowSwap: Open a new window somewhere in the world

<https://www.window-swap.com/window>

Tired of sketching the view out your window? Check this out - you can sketch the views out thousands of other people's windows!

I haven't sketched from it, but I've been poking around with it a bit. It's fun. The thing that surprises me about it is how very similar places look. Though I haven't come across any windows in places that are radically different, either. I'm always surprised when views in places like Russia, which I think of as very different, look totally like neighborhoods in the US or Canada or Europe. I just came to one in India, and while the vegetation was different, it's just a patio and a bit of garden, so there's no sense of what street life in parts of India might look like.

I wish it had a feature where you could search for specific places - all you can do is get them randomly, unfortunately. At least it appears that that's how it works. Yesterday I came across a spectacular view across Hong Kong Harbor, but I don't think there's any way to get back to it.

I'm not actually sure whether you can stop at a specific place, either, if you want to keep it there for a while to sketch. I did look into how to send them my view, and they ask for a ten-minute video. I haven't watched any video for that long. If in fact each video is ten minutes and you can't stop them, it could be an interesting exercise in doing fairly quick sketches!

Arches, Fabriano Artistico and Kilimanjaro: A review of three 140 lb cold pressed watercolor papers by Ron Macklin.



For my watercolor artist friends, I tested three 140 lb, cold pressed, 100% cotton watercolor papers (Arches, Fabriano Artistico and Kilimanjaro). I did three loose sketches of an autumn scene from the Hammond Museum & Japanese Stroll Garden in Salem, NY that I visited last fall. I found all three accepted the paint well, kept the colors bright, and accepted multiple washes very well. I liked Arches slightly more than the other two because the paper feels slightly firmer and it's cold press texture was a little more subtle which is appealing to me, particularly with a dry brush effect. That being said I'd be happy to continue painting on all three papers.

Member Spotlight: Elissa Gore

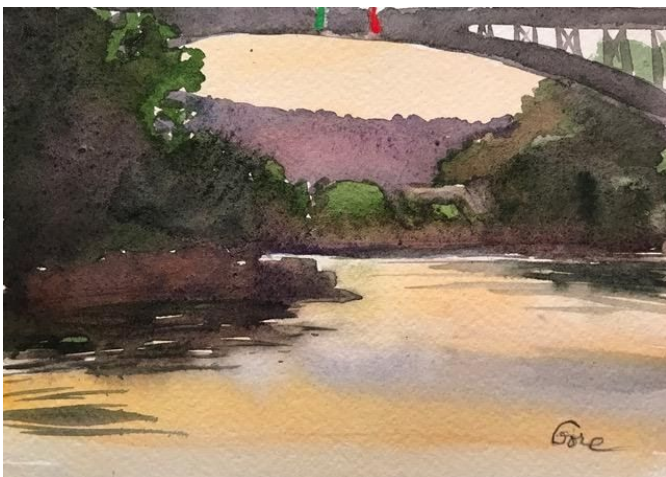


"I try to express the feeling when time stops. Call it the eternal instant or a transcendent moment. I respond to places that include air, earth and especially water., since it's essential to life. My paintings send a simple message about the environment: "This is the natural world. It's very beautiful. So let's keep it that way." - Elissa Gore

Getting to know Elissa

This month we shine the spotlight on Elissa Gore. Elissa grew up in Ambler, Pennsylvania, a suburb north of Philadelphia. She now lives in New York City and has two grown daughters and two tiny granddaughters living in Florida and California.

Formerly a professor of fine art and a medical illustrator, she studied at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Fine Arts and the University of Texas Southeastern. Elissa was introduced to painting by Rackstraw Downes and Neil Welliver in undergrad/graduate school. They inspired her to follow her inclination for realism and the natural world. She taught college fine arts classes from 1981-1997. When she wasn't teaching, Elissa was painting watercolor landscapes outdoors. When she moved to upper Manhattan, Elissa settled in the north end of Inwood where she has lived in the same apartment building, directly across from Inwood Hill Park, for 35 years. The park, which has a salt marsh and natural forest, has been a source of inspiration for many of her paintings.



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From 1990 onward, Elissa's fellowships at artists residencies offered periods of retreat essential to her development. Elissa stopped teaching to paint full-time in 1997, though she occasionally taught plein air painting and botanical illustration classes at the New York Botanical Garden. She was persuaded by a few of her students to teach watercolor in her studio as well as outdoors in Inwood Hill Park. One day someone brought in the book *Urban Sketching: The Complete Guide to Techniques* by Thomas Thorspecken. After a quick Google search led to the discovery of NYC Urban Sketchers, Elissa and two of her students (Ella Biondi, and Janet Levy) jumped right in. She has been meeting up all over the city with NYC Urban Sketchers for the past 6 or 7 years. Elissa LOVES the community of artists that she has met through urban sketching. They all have enriched her life. She LOVES the challenge of drawing in a new place. She LOVES being able to paint small.



Elissa feels most comfortable painting in watercolor with pencil under-drawing. When she uses a sketchbook, her work ends up in a panoramic format. She mainly uses different brands of 140 lb watercolor paper cut into 5x7 inch sheets. Using this size, she can finish a sketch quickly.

Elissa offers this advice to her fellow sketchers: "Don't be product oriented. Drawing is a form of meditation. I do it because the process feels good. When I get too self-conscious or self-critical while I am working, it's disastrous. Although a decent sketch is a gift from the universe, it won't happen unless I show up with pencil and paper. Difficulties? I try to resolve a false start up to a certain point for the creative challenge, but there are some drawings that get tossed to the bottom of the pile at home. I keep them for a while, as long as they contain the remnants

of lessons learned. When I look at my older work, successful or not, it triggers memories: smells, sounds, the quality of the air that day, my emotions. So even a drawing that won't ever be seen on a wall, has value. I use my sketches extensively to make large studio paintings. They are much more useful than photographs to jog my memories of the experience of place."



Elissa was commissioned to paint "Burmese Bites" on the spot. Free lunch was part of the bargain. The food was delicious, really amazing!

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All of Elissa's urban sketches and travel sketches are posted on her blog "Paint Trails" <http://elissagore.blogspot.com/>. During the pandemic, she spent most days going out to sketch in Inwood Park. These sketches are also posted on her blog: <https://elissagore.blogspot.com/2020/08/more-inwoods-parks.html>

In the past 10 years, "plein air painting events" became a "thing" and Elissa was hooked! She really enjoys packing her gear and frames to paint for 3/4 day events and exhibitions along the East coast. It is hard work but it is also great fun to paint whatever nature offers on location. Elissa's work is often shown nationally and is included in over 60 public collections. She has had many group and solo exhibitions. In the Northeast she is represented by Markel Fine Arts in NYC and Madelyn Jordan Fine Arts in Scarsdale. Some of Elissa's recent events include:

- **"Artist Spotlight"** show at Byrdcliffe Shop in Woodstock, NY, August 2020. Elissa was a resident artist at the Byrdcliffe Art Colony for 16 summers and painted watercolors of the historic buildings where she lived. Small oil paintings made outdoors around Woodstock are also part of this show.
- 16 oils on the theme of **"Calm Waters"** at "Who's Cooking" in Croton Falls, NY, September, 2020.
- **Artist Spotlight with Elissa Gore** / Inwood Art Works On Air podcast, Sept 10, 2020. In this interview Elissa talks about the importance of working in her neighborhood. https://blubrry.com/inwoodartworksonair/67275581/artist-spotlight-with-elissa-gore/?fbclid=IwAR3wdhRgyJOfZ9bW38eS-bbhZg3ujbhOg4r76cdsDGYgEM7v5UTmHUH_z2Y

What you may not know about Elissa is that she has a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology. Although she never practiced, it has been valuable in dealing with the occasional strange person when she is out in the city. Elissa has a Master of Arts in biomedical illustration, too.



To see more of Elissa's art work, please visit:

Plein Air Blog: <http://elissagore.blogspot.com/>

Website: <http://www.elissagore.net/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/elissa.gore>

Stay Connected

Post your work on NYC Urban Sketchers Facebook to connect with your peers.

If you are not already a member of the NYC Urban Sketchers Facebook group, ask to join by using the "Join Group" button on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nycurbansketchers/>. Once accepted, you will be able to see the work of others and post your own work. When posting your work on Facebook or Instagram, please use the hashtag #nycurbansketchers. Please also be generous with supportive comments - it will be appreciated by your fellow urban sketchers.

Virtual events are a perfect way to get together and have some great fun in the process.

When you attend NYC Urban Sketchers virtual events via ZOOM, breaking out into smaller groups is like sitting and sketching together. You will get to know new people and they will get to know you. We can also learn from and provide encouragement to each other. For some helpful information, see

<http://nyc.urbansketchers.org/2020/04/the-next-big-step.html>

Stay Healthy and Safe



Sketch by Shirley Levine

Sniffer Dogs Make the News: The latest blog post in Shirley Levine's *Paper and Threads* Covid-19 series is about how sniffer dogs are being trained to detect infected covid-19 patients

http://www.paperandthreads.com/2020/10/sniffer_covid19_dogs.php?

Behind The Scenes With Dogs Being Trained To Detect COVID-19 | NBC Nightly News

This video shows how the training of sniffer dogs is being done. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are training dogs to detect coronavirus by scent, a method which could potentially be used to conduct mass screenings in public spaces like airports or stadiums. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaJAWi8kSLU>