

Studio Views began in May of 2020

We got a rare view of the artist at work in their studio and gained insight to their unique creative processes during Covid-19. In May of 2021, we asked them to check back in.

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STUDIO VIEWS



JUNE 2020

As an instructor and adventure traveler who designs artist getaways/workshops...the seismic shift that is Covid-19 brought me out of the clouds and back to earth rather quickly. As well as back into my studio. My home studio is small but gets lots of light. It has become my haven, a cove in which I have settled into a daily routine of art-making. This was not the case before. Outdoors, the various air bnb's that make up my temporary homes away from home and all the classrooms I teach were my primary studio spaces. I had learned to be efficiently mobile with my art supplies.

What I am enjoying in this time of quiet and stay-at-home, is a reconnection to what I love about a disruption...it feeds our creativity and sends us into imaginative problem-solving mode. There is much entropy in my studio these days, a sea of plastic storage bins scattered about, tubes of paint, brushes, craft papers, paper towels and lots of paint drips on the floor. The ever-present tripod and video setup greets me each morning as I transition my space into a virtual classroom and multimedia production studio. Multiple canvases in progress leaning against the wall waiting their turn for time on the easel. I love that I have that easel time, and my favorite tools at my fingertips. Now if I can just get it better organized! My studio always feels like the laboratory of a mad scientist. I didn't always give myself the daily permission to focus on my art-making, there was always another work distraction. A wearer of many hats. Amazing how we artists tend to get into a rhythm of neglecting our own process while encouraging and sustaining others. I am finding a balance and staking a claim.

I've always been aware that artists and creatives thrive on disruption, perhaps why I enjoy the challenge of travel, plein air painting, mixed media experimentation. We have to adjust and think on our feet. It provides new perspective, new colors, new layers on our world and history and space. As an anatomist of the world, I am embracing the unknown, making new art, and...staying home.



JUNE 2021

When the pandemic hit and we went into "lockdown," I tried to embrace the pivot from extroverted teaching and travel to more introverted creative time. But it had to be in small ways. Suddenly I found it difficult to work on large canvases. I attribute it to needing more immediate gratification, so much was unknown: galleries and museums and my studio classes all delayed, travel workshops cancelled. My studio became the hub of my days yet I had to work in short spurts. And if I didn't have the energy to paint, I organized. And dove into art journaling, collaging vintage Bingo cards, artist trading cards, sending zines to friends and family around the world as a way to stay connected when catching up in person wasn't possible. This shift in production and process forced me to organize even more. And my studio became a digital classroom, requiring a makeshift setup for live zoom recordings. All those storage bins of paints and papers became my lectern and computer tripod. Did I really have this many art supplies?

The biggest change to my studio view, is that I now have a secondary plein air studio at Lake Lure, in western North Carolina. While not a formal creative studio space per se, it's a portal to nature, the mountains, and the arts in a region I love. Time there provides inspiration and reprieve from my Wilmington home base. Essentially the road trip became the quintessential travel adventure during the pandemic and I took full advantage of the pivot. My mountain and "outdoor" studio is where I can recharge and reconnect to my plein air sensibilities and alla prima, Cerulean daze.

Ultimately I am reminded, my studio is wherever I want to be. And there's always a good view.