

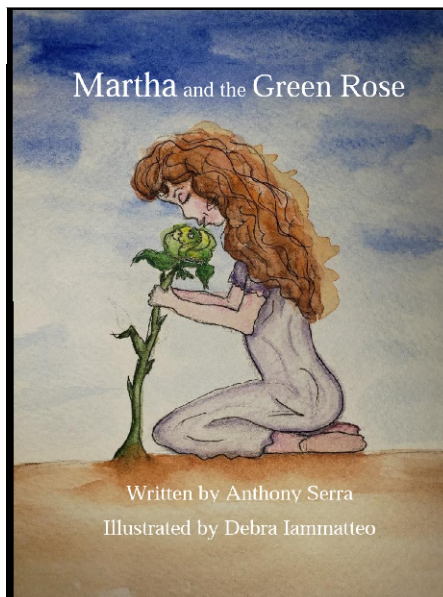
Bruce Simmons

"For several years, I have been teaching basic watercolor skills at both Newark Senior Center and Delaware Technical Community College. With cancellation of my spring classes, I decided to learn iMovie and convert this course into an (unlisted) YouTube channel. While I don't get the instant feedback of an in-class course, I feel I am better able to demonstrate some of the more delicate aspects of brush work and handling of water. New students seem genuinely pleased, and there is evidence that some are painting along with me.

iMovie is quite flexible in allowing voice-over, subtitles, editing and more. Furthermore, there are YouTube videos which help both with learning iMovie and with hosting a YouTube channel. When we resume in-class teaching (this fall?), my plan is to use these videos as at-home reminders of what we did in class."

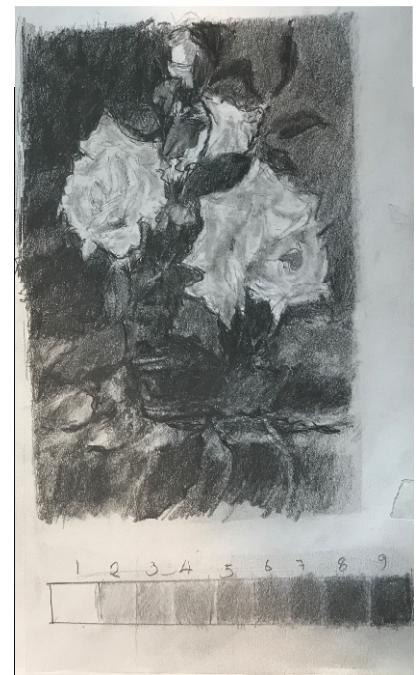


Ruth Ann Kaufman - "While sheltering in place I have begun a much overdue reorganization of my studio and have also found some interesting old photos and such. I found some photos of a trip to the Netherlands during tulip season. I was supposed to paint en plein air during the Lewes tulip celebration (cancelled) but did the Netherland tulip fields instead.



Debra Iammatteo has been working on the illustrations for a children's book..

"This was a real challenge and when I was asked to do it, I thought why not give it a try. I'm so glad I did."



Larry Kamlot has been taking an online course on color theory. The above value study is from a photographic still life.

He is "wishing all to stay safe, think pleasant thoughts, and remember that better times are coming sooner than what you might expect."



Chris Heyse -

"I've been keeping my watercolor journal pages with tidbits about what life has been like during the quarantining and also noting the changes in the stats as the pandemic progress around the world. Hopefully, someday we will look back at this record and see something positive from it-that we survived in good humor, appreciated each other more and emerged more learned and skilled at some things because of it!

I hope others might be inspired to keep their own journals. It's cathartic and a great way to keep up your skills."



"Bright Eyes" by Dan Feth

Jan Henning-

"I have created a video for our class members as we each are required to stay home. This class "Creative New Beginnings" was created for people who are experiencing grief. Another artist friend and I started this endeavor in February and had five very enthusiastic students. We stressed that the students have to be willing to put paint on paper - no previous instruction required. Now we are offering the videos on YouTube to help keep them involved during this strange time. We try to teach that creativity will help to relieve anxiety and stress. YouTube - Art a Swalebrook #1 and #2.

I have also completed multiple paintings and read many novels. I have the garden ready to plant and flower beds cleaned for new growth. I'm just waiting for warm weather.

I would love to travel to Delaware and attend a DWS meeting. Sometime soon, I hope."



Pat Hoey - watercolor on a gesso juiced start

Pat Hoey

"What an incredible time we are living in. Seems like we woke up one morning and everything was changed. Sheltering in place wasn't supposed to be something we should face. Then April came and artist friends challenged me to paint a new work each day. Most were plein air painters. It was still cold here so outdoor painting wasn't easy. Mostly I went out and took pictures around the garden.

Thought to myself, could I meet this challenge? As each day of social distancing and staying in place proceeded, having to think about a new painting each day became a life saver. Soon I also went down memory lane seeking ideas from old photos.

Never painted everyday before, but now I love it! Some are great others, not so much. But with each new attempt I feel I am growing in my understanding of watercolor and the complexities of this media.

A more important outcome has been the wonderful sharing with others who love painting! Each day we share by text our work and provide critique and encouragement. Hope we continue to share and learn even after the world gets back to normal."

Charlotte Hughes

"Some Delaware watercolor friends and I accepted a challenge from my West Virginia sister and her friends to do a small painting a day for the month of April. It started out as PleinAirApril, but the weather soon caused us to expand our focus. No rules really, just an opportunity to share our work. Every evening the posts started chiming in. We've shared our art as well as painting and materials tips, techniques and philosophies. This interaction has made these shelter-in-place days go by quickly, with inspiring and encouraging comments from other artists!

This painting of the Lightship Overfalls in Lewes is one of my favorites from this experience - a reminder to keep our eye on the prize and that we are truly all in this together."



"The Lightship Overfalls" Charlotte Hughes



"Lavender Clematis" Anne Crown-Cyr

Anne Cyr-

"I have been doing some painting and am now on my fourth watercolor. I'm doing a series of paintings of an antique horse hitch I saw in New Orleans a couple of years ago when some friends and I visited there during Christmas. Once I'm finished with these, I have another three or four paintings I'll be working in gouache. On nice days, I have been doing brief spurts of weeding and planting in the garden. Bought some clematis and phlox online and have planted some of that. I already have several clematis plants in my garden on trellis and arbors, but it is so lovely, I couldn't resist more.

One of the main things I have been doing, however, is ordering online and I'm not looking forward to the credit card bills!"

Anne and her dog Fiona are "hanging in and overdosing on way too much HGTV, Hallmark and movie re-runs. "

Final thoughts - After compiling this issue of the Hot Press I am amazed at the many talents of our members and truly believe "Art is Healing". These artists all wish our members good health and best wishes and look forward to the days when we may be together again.