

Karin Richter Fine Art

Newsletter

EASTER 2020



"Italian Garden, Watercolour, 22"x30"

I sent out an early spring newsletter just a while ago and it is hard to believe how the world has changed since then! I started above with an older image of the Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC as I had planned a quick visit there for some spring inspiration but of course, all well-laid plans for this time of year had to be put on hold. I hope this finds everyone well and healthy and not too stir-crazy! I put out these newsletters every quarter but decided, for now, during this time of change, to be in touch more often.

The artist community has been great, offering support and ideas to keep everyone going. "Viruses don't kill art but even successful artists will be pushed to the limits" (Jerry Saltz). In a way, it is like time to create was "given" to us, free to work on our next projects. In her latest post, Sara Genn (Robert Genn's daughter who carries on his Painters' Keys newsletters) quotes an artist who says we may choose to "cherish the privilege" of working from home. She points out that we have low overheads, our worldly needs are modest, we work for love and are poor consumers. We also thrive in the quiet spaces which means our ideas are being given the opportunity to improve. If part of art's function is to explore our universal human experience, home is our current unifying theme".

So here we are, at home, with time on our hands to do just that. Social media can be a great resource right now. On my Instagram feed, I get daily updates from major museums of the world allowing me to browse their collections. Fellow artists communicate their thoughts and artistic reactions and share the work they are creating in solitude.



My pastel colleague and friend Gail Sibley's take on the recent toilet paper shortage

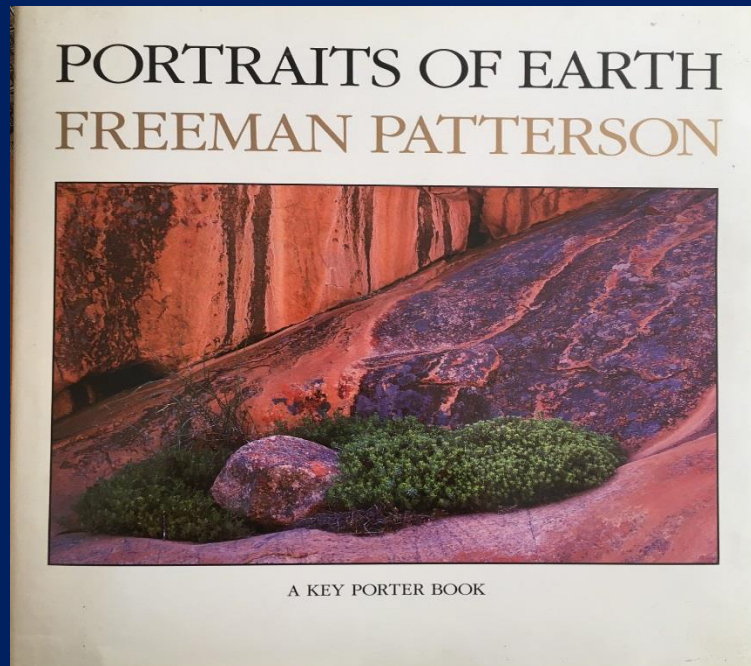
A great exercise!

It is a good time to review older work and decide if it passes your current quality control or maybe you discover older work that was better than you thought at the time and it inspires you to revisit a theme. Some work not seen in a while surfaces and you wonder why it has not found a home or why it did not resonate with anyone. Some of these questions can make an artist doubt his/her abilities and future direction. A time for serious artistic reflection!

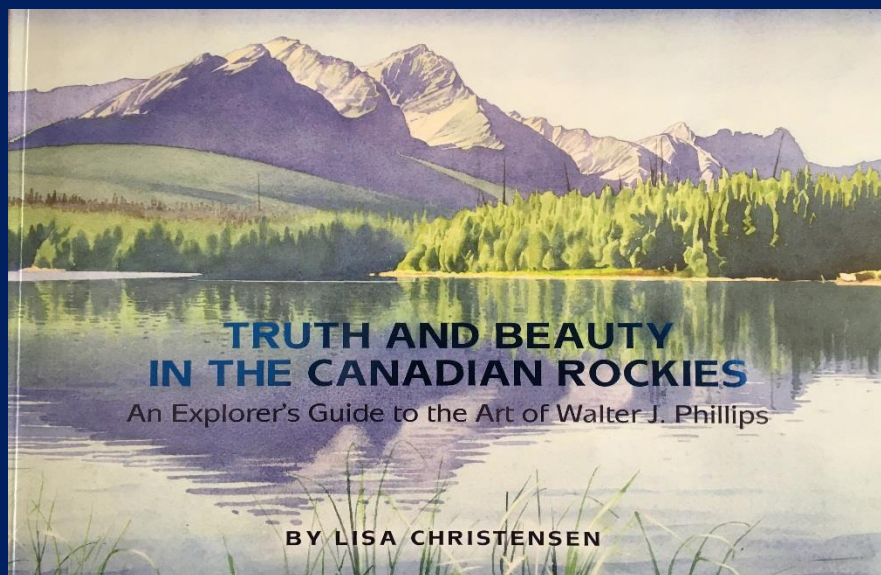


"Copper & Brass", Pastel, 16"x16"

I find myself experimenting a lot, something I don't often take time for. I read books that inspire me. I have currently a photographer's book on my coffee table: Freeman Patterson's "Portraits of Earth" which was loaned to me. He has a wonderful way of looking at and writing about his subject matter that resonates with me. He is the real deal! Check him out!

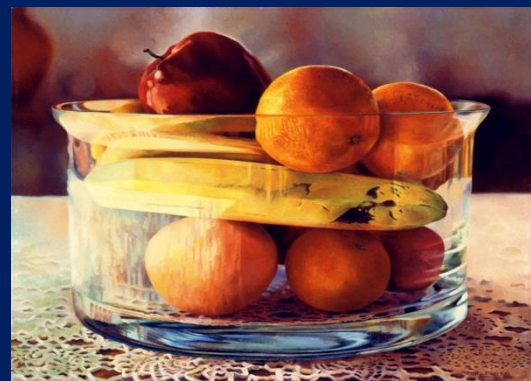


Another inspirational book I have on hand is Lisa Christensen's "Truth & Beauty in the Canadian Rockies". She produced this book on the occasion of the Walter J. Phillips' exhibition at the Loch Gallery last summer. So much to learn here from a true watercolour master.



Every Sunday evening, the TV Channel "Makeful" (555) presents their series "Landscape Artist of the Year" and "Portrait Artist of the Year", a British program with a recent Canadian version, which I enjoy watching to see what other artists do and what the judges have to comment.

Spring is around the corner and most of us planned to go outside to collect more reference material to get us motivated. If you are still walking or running, make sure to have your camera with you. Neighbourhoods and parks have tons of subject matter. Unfortunately, that is a limited activity now so some of us will have to look "inside", our homes in particular as Mary Pratt (famous Canadian painter I mentioned in an earlier newsletter) did by painting what surrounded her:



I also came across the artist Billie Zangewa from South Africa who portrays women in the home, very interesting!



There is no shortage of what one could paint or draw. Just the simple act of drawing one small item/day can make a difference. It keeps our observational skills sharp!

My painting holiday to the Amalfi Coast has been postponed to spring 2021. We all hope that life will have resumed fully by then and we can, once again, enjoy the beautiful vistas this country has to offer.



Laundry & Roses, Pastel, 16"x20"

I will be in touch again to let you know when my workshops have been rescheduled. Again, if you wish to do some learning in the meantime, I have my instructional products at a special price and free in-town curbside delivery. Check my store on my website and email me for details at karinrichter@shaw.ca.

As you probably know, local Calgary art supply stores have curbside pickup or home delivery as well. You will agree we all have much to be grateful for: a warm home, food to eat and art to make! I wish everyone a good Easter holiday and hope you find joy in everyday pleasures.



Keep in touch! Stay safe!

All the best in life and in art!

Karin

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