



RAINBOW ARTISTS

WWW.RAINBOWARTISTS.COM

WOMEN MAKING ART SINCE 1990

## April 2020 Newsletter

**Rainbow Artists Monthly Meeting  
Sunday, May 17, 2-4 pm  
Cancelled (as was March and April)**



## Contacts

**Treasurer: Sue Pine**  
(slpine@gmail.com)

**Newsletter editor: Joan Fenicle**  
(joanf41@gmail.com)

**Historian and webmaster: Janine Wilson**  
(janineabq@gmail.com)

**Publicity: Leslie Kryder**  
(leslieunm@gmail.com)

**2020 Dues are due NOW:**

**Please mail your \$25 to:**  
Susan Pine

2200 Lester Drive NE, #378

## Staying Connected with Zoom

Stuck at home amid the pandemic, creative people are finding new ways to use videoconferencing software that once was confined to the home office.

On March 13, a group of six actors performed a play on Zoom, while the playwright and a digital audience listened in. Despite a few issues mostly related to flaky internet connections, the event was a success.

It's not the only video tool the arts community is using. While Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta has offered some programming via Zoom, it's also using Facebook Live to stream some larger performances and in cases where two-way video communication isn't necessary.

Shannon Downey, the artist and activist behind Badass Cross Stitch who recently hosted a virtual "stitch up" for crafters around the world, said that while that session was successful, she's learned a few lessons she plans to apply to the next iterations. One—something that many business Zoom users have also learned the hard way—is to make sure participants join the group with their microphones muted, so conversations aren't drowned out by background noise and cross talk. Another is to limit group sizes to make conversation and collaboration more effective.

Visual artists are finding ways to work digitally: Inspyr Arts, a Long Beach, California, arts studio that offers visual art instruction to young people has also embraced Zoom.

As the pandemic continues to isolate people, it's likely that artists will continue to find ways to create, collaborate and share their work across the internet, predicts Theatre Unleashed's Crafts. "No matter what, the art goes on, even in the toughest times," she says.

**So, how many Rainbows are interested in a Zoom meeting in June? We will provide instructions and a link to a Zoom tutorial prior to the meeting?**



## Rainbow Activities

As we shelter in place, artists often retreat into their studios and kitchens where they find peace and inspiration. What have some Rainbow's been doing.

**Claire Hurrey** reports: "I'm working on my paintings, studying the work of other painters, honing my skills again as I go back to my not completed works to finish them. I'm painting small paintings to sharpen my skills for the bigger paintings that are part of my larger body of work: The Elephant's Ball. I'm used to working alone, so social distancing isn't an issue in that way. I miss seeing people and being social, but doing my work is not a social or group activity. It's me alone in the studio creating. It is the work itself that gives back energy to me once I get it to a point where it's strong enough to do so. Until then, it can be exhausting, because I have to give so much to bring the painting to a successful place of creation. I like the continuity of no interruptions. Interruptions happen of course, even in this unusual time, but really enjoy having days in a row of concentrated effort, to follow a thought/painting thread to its conclusion."

**Martha Heard** is writing an hour a week with Alone Together Zoom with Michelle Otero, poet laureate. She shared two with us and we have included May Poem on Page 3. She says it is nice to know that for one hour a week she will write something. She continues to read and discuss works in Spanish with three others and sometimes gets to organizing - of which there is a lot. She hopes to get to the slides at some point and takes photos during walks. And she is quite busy with the Wells Park project of Save Coronado Park.

**Marian Berg** is really enjoying being at home! Her nursing job has been on hold due to low census, and this is the first time in 35 years that she hasn't worked for an extended time! She started a mural in her back yard because she was tired of looking at the ugly cinder block wall. It's about 35 feet long by 6 feet, so it should keep her out of trouble for a while! She has also been finishing up some paintings and started a few new ones.

**Jade Herrera** is simply not motivated to paint, trying numerous times but nothing works. She made some cards for the hospital but that is it.

From **Nova DeNise**: "I find it difficult right now to create, always some projects around the house. But only so much this old broad wants to do, my motivation is depleting. Staying in contact with friends through Zoom helps my spirit. With that said, may we all stay safe. Art will be generated by all this SHIT! May the force be behind us to bring out all these injustices to our Earth. Hugs to all you out there!"

From **Linsay Locke**: "I am not painting. Somehow I just lack the motivation, but then I've always needed deadlines. I was to have a small one-person show in Jemez the end of May and into June, but of course the gallery is closed. I'm gardening, baking, napping more. And I just found an anti-flu remedy in an herbal medicine book and am going to pick up several herbs curbside from Red Root herb store near Coop on Rio Grande. Happily I grow most of the herbs needed. If anyone is interested I can send the formula. It has to steep for two weeks so best to get started. May you all be well. May there be rain today.

**Grace Collins** painted not at all during the first weeks, but is back in the groove now. Winter used to be her most productive time, but habits are changing now. Things are a little muddled, and she hasn't been able to establish a new pattern yet. She says "I miss you all. At this point I have no idea about the show at St. Michael in July, as we haven't been able to meet.

**Janine Wilson** says: "Though I started out great guns in the beginning of stay at home by being in my studio every morning by 9, it fizzled out. Instead of 14 paintings by May, I have only painted nine. I have spent more time on marketing but need to get back in the studio. The best thing about isolation for me has been feeling that I have permission to be lazy. Some days I just read in the hammock, exercise and cook. (Yea, her list of what she accomplished has me ready for a nap!)



## May Poem by Martha Heard

Oh what to write today  
This lovely day in May  
Morning breeze  
So easy to please  
On this lovely day in May.

These first days of May  
Uno de mayo  
May Day  
May pole  
May soul  
El día del trabajador  
Parades and marches  
To honor the worker  
First of May

Dos de mayo  
Madrid rises up  
To fight the French  
To save their land  
Dos de mayo

Tres de mayo  
El día de la cruz  
Crosses in churches,  
plazas,  
Pacios  
Red gold  
Claveles y rosas  
The day of the cross.

Cuatro de mayo  
Birthday of my brother  
George Edmund Heard  
Named after grandfathers  
And father  
We called him Bud  
Bold blue eyes  
A smile almost a smirk  
Not one for close ties  
He kept much to himself.  
Until he let loose  
His deep belly laugh  
And we all joined in  
His mirth.  
Now he lies  
Under vast Wyoming skies  
The river flows past  
Where he lies at last  
Near the waterfall  
Large rocks protect his soul.  
Fourth of May

Cinco de mayo  
Laughter, gaiety  
Triumph.  
Mexicans defeat the French  
At Puebla.  
A day to celebrate  
To sing rancheras  
And dance in the street  
To honor abuelos, abuelas  
Y las jovenes mexicanas  
Con sus vestidos de mil colores  
Viva Mexico.  
Y el espíritu luchador del  
Cinco de mayo.

Seis de mayo.  
A day in the mountains  
An escape from the city  
And the restrictions of the virus.  
we slowly ascend ‘  
The inviting dirt path  
Past muted orange Indian paintbrush  
Bunches of Small white daisies  
Yellow, purple flowers scattered on the side of the mountain  
green trees shade our way  
Giving us glimpses of bold blue sky  
Muffled bird songs stir us  
As we take deep breaths  
Remembering what it was like  
Before the virus overtook us  
A time to escape  
To the welcoming Sandías  
Sixth of May



Janine Wilson's latest watercolor: Monument Valley

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Turtles Sheltering In Place  
quick sketch at Rio Grande ponds  
Jackie Hertel

### Mission Statement

Rainbow Artists, an award winning women’s collective established in Albuquerque in 1990, supports, promotes, and encourages women artists.

- \* We embrace ethnic and artistic diversity.
- \* We strive to grow in our art and our association with each other.
- \* We share our talents and enrich our creativity and our community through collaborative exhibits and projects.

Rainbow Artists  
2200 Lester NE, Apt 378  
Albuquerque, NM 87112  
[www.rainbowArtists.com](http://www.rainbowArtists.com)  
Newsletter deadline is the 1st of each month.



Coronavirus Blues by Marian Berg