

Essential Art:  
Work by Blue Mountain Gallery Artists during the Pandemic

June – October 2020

[www.bluemountaingallery.org](http://www.bluemountaingallery.org)

Essential Art Spotlight

Marcia Clark - My time in the studio:



Although life is not essentially different these days, I seem to be in a state of suspension. Going into town to shop for food or to the post office requires determination and happens not nearly as often, and each time plays on feelings of vulnerability. A large painting sits on the easel, inched upon each day and never quite completed. The painting evolved from a small study done a few months ago in Siena.

Working in the studio May 2020

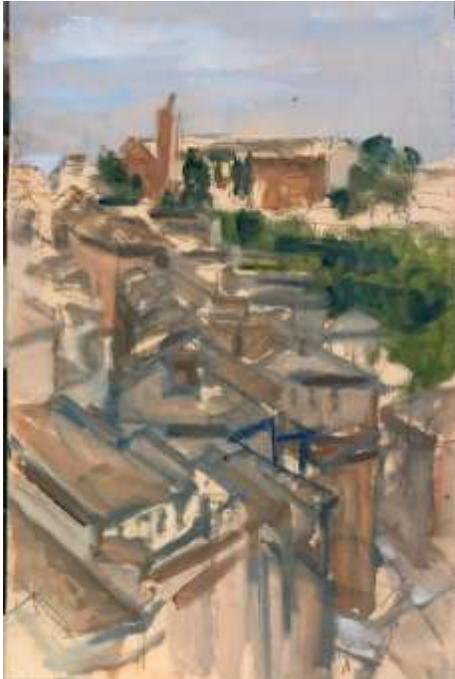


Returning from Piazza del Campo 2019, oil on aluminum 5x8 inches

I had been on my way back to the pensione where I was staying with a friend. It was early evening and as my feet touched the pavement, I was revisiting an imagined medieval past. Influenced by Lorenzetti's *Allegory of Good and Bad Government*, at the Palazzo Pubblico, I was seeing plague times, ordinary times as though I myself were there. I had in fact visited Siena nearly 60 years ago, but the city was familiar as if in a dream. Roberta, my friend, brought me back to the present, noticing a turquoise facade in the shadows of a passageway. We were both charmed and engaged by what we saw and returned with our painting supplies. We

started working on small studies there on the street, mine stretching around a corner to the ends of both streets that I could see from my vantage point.

The study rounds a corner: the ends of the two streets are the centers of attraction, the middle part melting away. (See image above) This mimicked my perception but demanded further exploration, perhaps of a different nature from the one I was pursuing...yet each day I build, destroy and rebuild on the same canvas. Am I in an eternal holding pattern, or summoning up the strength to break through?



Left :From the Balcony of the Palazzo Pubblico,2019, oil on aluminum 8x5 inches  
Right : Beyond the City Gates, 2019 , oil on aluminum 8x5 inches

[www.marciackpaintings.com](http://www.marciackpaintings.com) has video from most recent show at Blue Mountain.