

Artist Spotlight

Pamela Berkeley : Painting during the Plague



Pamela Berkeley in her studio

Painting is second nature to me. The work I do is a joy. I have confidence in it. I work from life, eye to hand, in a kind of meditative state, as many of us do. I don't make things up in my art. I try for honesty. I don't believe in "composition." Nature is always in balance if you pay attention. The less I think about what I'm working on, the easier and faster it goes and the more joyful.

I know how fortunate I am to be healthy (I hope) and in my isolated home and studio in the woods of Massachusetts. And yet the inspiration, the energy, is suspended with the bizarre weather, heat and storms. I may also have contracted this Plague early on. I don't know. When we finally were able to be tested, I was negative, maybe. Still, with the horror out there in the outside world, the catastrophe of having a megalomaniac clown idiot being allowed to make decisions for us all is very distressing and frightening. I've never had to struggle to paint before now.



Daffodils in a Peter Hewitt Vase, 28x30, oil on canvas

I'll try to get back to the point. I am not one who believes in the angry starving artist genius thing. I think we, I certainly, produce much more when we are not thinking about the wolf at the door. Many of us had shows that were planned for quite awhile just go away. I did. I'm also concerned about my family, my grandchildren, the people I love. Worry and fear cast a gloom, and things can become colorless, which may be why it has been difficult to see and to paint.

If I'm not painting, I'm gardening or taking care of my grandson, re-reading Garcia-Marquez *Love in the Time of Cholera*. It has been wonderful to hear and see how others of us are dealing with these changes in our lives.



Black Ribbon, Oil on Canvas, 20 x30, 2018



Candlemas, Oil on Canvas, 28 x30, 2019

The autumn is upon us. It is my favorite season and beautiful nature all around asking me to interact with it. I have time as long as I remain healthy, but this Plague isn't going away anytime soon.

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