15 October, 2026

Behind the Brush

Community news for students at the Holt School of Fine Art

Volume 1, Issue 1

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About our Newsletter



This monthly newsletter and our community website (https://www.holtcommunity.art/) are for you—our Holt community of artists and instructors.

Our goal is to be a centralized collection of news you can use, a safe space to share our works, our triumphs, and our struggles, and a way to share advice, ideas, thoughts to help each other on our creative journey.

The value is in your hands.

We've made it easy to contribute.

EVENTS:

If there's an event in the community, submit it to our calendar:

https://www.holtcommunity.art/submit-an-event/

CONTENT:

If you want to share your art or other content, submit it here:

https://www.holtcommunity.art/content-submission/

SIGNUP:

Signup for the newsletter: https://www.holtcommunity.art/newsletter-signup/

CONTACT US: Questions, Suggestions

Contact us: https://www.holtcommunity.art/contact-us/

HOLT EVENTS

The Evolving Dream: A solo exhibition of the work of Nicholas M. Stewart	**Gallery Nine Eighteen Nine (VAPA Center)** 700 N Tryon Street - Charlotte	September 12 - October 31, 2026 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Pastel Landscapes – Pineville Studio and en Plein Air	Varied	October 6 - 27, 2026 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Walk and Talk with Nick	**Gerald Melberg Gallery** 625 S Sharon Amity Rd - Charlotte	October 24, 2026 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Artfields – art show

Nearly 400 works of art will be on display in locally-owned venues, from renovated 1920s warehouses and professional art spaces, to the history museum, the Ronald E. McNair Life History Center, restaurants, boutiques and other shops. Additionally, the ArtFields Jr. Statewide Art Competition features hundreds more artworks from talented South Carolina students in grades 1 -12. During the ArtFields Festival, what was once one of South Carolina's most prosperous agricultural communities becomes a living art gallery as we recognize, celebrate, and share artistic talent. April 9, 2027 - May 1, 2027

Learn More: https://www.artfieldssc.org/festival/

UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens Nature Therapy Walks are the first Saturday morning of each month, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm . It's a relaxing 2.5 to 3 hour stroll through the forest at Van Landingham Glen. Through a series of invitations, you will have an opportunity to focus on being present in the moment, deepening your connection with nature and community, and enjoying the many gifts nature has to offer.

"Forest bathing" is a walk in nature during which your guide will share mindfulness practices and invitations designed to connect you more deeply to your inner landscapes as well as the world around you. Inspired by shinrin-yoku (literally "forest bath"), the Japanese art of immersing the Japanese art of immersing oneself in a forest environment, forest bathing walks invite guests to spend time in nature in a way that invites healing for us, as well as our fraught ecosystems, and our community. FEE AND RSVP REQUIRED: Please email garden-education@charlotte.edu

Carolina Renaissance Festival: Jousting, turkey legs, and a whole fictional village of Fairhaven, the Renaissance Festival kicks off its season in Huntersville. Make a day of it and bring the whole crew.

- **When:** Weekends, Oct. 3–Nov. 22, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Huntersville
- **How much:** $37.99 adults, $23.99 kids (5–12), free for 4 and under. Get tickets.

Events, continued.

The Music of Tina Turner The Charlotte Symphony's Pops Series brings the Queen of Rock and Roll's biggest hits to life — think "Proud Mary," "What's Love Got to Do with It," and that unmistakable powerhouse energy. Simply the best way to spend a fall weekend.

- **Date:** Friday, Oct. 16 & Saturday, Oct. 17
- **Time:** 7:30–9:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Knight Theater
- **Tickets:** charlottesymphony.org

Painting the French Riviera

2 October 2026 - 31 January 2027

The Royal Academy, London, UK

The story of how the Côte d'Azur dazzled modern art's great innovators

https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/painting-the-french-riviera

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOU TO SHARE YOUR EVENTS!

EVENT OF THE MONTH:

The Evolving Dream: A solo exhibition of the work of Nicholas M. Stewart

Gallery Nine Eighteen Nine (VAPA Center)
700 N Tryon Street - Charlotte

September 12 - October 31, 2026
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Book of the Month

From Nick Stewart:

October – "Man with a Blue Scarf: Sitting for a Portrait by Lucien Freud" by Martin Gayford"

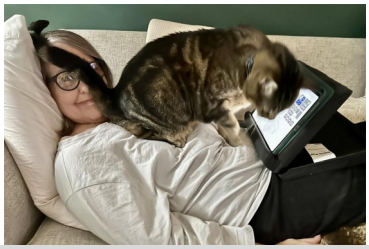
Quote: "An extraordinary record of a great artist in his studio, it also describes what it feels like to be transformed into a work of art." –ARTnews Lucian Freud (1922-2011), widely regarded as the greatest figurative painter of our time, spent seven months painting a portrait of the art critic Martin Gayford."

Man with a Blue Scarf: On Sitting for a Portrait by Lucian Freud. London: Thames & Hudson, 2010.

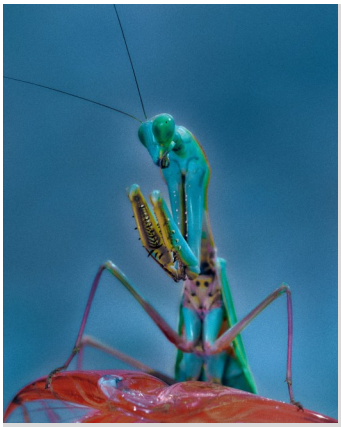
https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/man-with-a-blue-scarf-on-sitting-for-a-portrait-by-lucian-freud-9780500238752

Editors comments: I recommend Better World Books for used books online. Though not an NFP, it is a B Corp™ that donates books and supports literacy programs around the world.

From the Editor



Boom and I find so many ways to avoid painting - or any other productive activities. Here's a random assortment of my doomscrolling this month. **Please don't force me to do this again! I'd much rather publish your contributions!!**



From Colossal - a magazine I adore - an article on Elizaveta Porodina. Quote: "Perhaps best known for her luminous portraits in collaboration with legacy magazines and fashion houses, photographer Elizaveta Porodina has also captured the smaller, yet no less striking, creatures walking this planet. (The) ... radiant series of images highlights beetles, butterflies, and mantises in her signature ethereal style and saturated color. The body of work focuses on the concept of biomimicry ... "

Article here: https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2026/10/elizaveta-porodina-photos-found-dreams/

Book here: https://bookshop.org/p/books/elizaveta-porodina-found-dreams-elizaveta-porodina/fa75d2678831687a?ean=9783791394800&affiliate=96

Artist's Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/elizavetaporodina/?hl=en

From **Outdoor Painter:**

I thought these were some great "*Fresh Techniques for Sketching On the Move".* The author is **Suma CM. More here:** www.artbysuma.com

Quote: Since urban sketching doesn't require elaborate equipment, I can take out a sketchbook and a minimal kit at a moment's notice, immersing myself in whatever's happening around me.

I'm paying attention not only to what I see but also the sounds, the breeze, even the scents. It's a kind of participant observation – a way to engage in visual storytelling. At the same time, its portable nature means my documenting can be as thorough or as limited as I please.

Here are some ways that I keep things fresh as I sketch "on the spot":

Sketch against time: I give myself a set time to draw, adapting my technique accordingly. In five minutes, I might produce just a thumbnail or contour drawing, while 45 minutes might see me with a fully rendered ink-and-watercolor sketch.

From the Editor, continued

Line after color: Usually I'll start with line and add color afterward. But change the order, and those initial splashes of color suddenly make the sketch feel loose and less fussy.

Square foot sketch: If I'm feeling uninspired, I sometimes warm up by focusing intensely on a small bounded area (a square foot, for instance), and recording only what's there. I might notice a texture on the sidewalk, an ant or two crawling across that vast (to them) expanse of concrete, or a weed poking out and reaching for the sun. Capturing those small wonders helps remind me that there is something to be observed and drawn everywhere – I don't have to wait for the "perfect" scene or subject.

Try this as a warmup if you're experiencing artist block: Go deep on a very small scale, and bonus points for using a color you don't typically reach for in your kit.

The Article" https://www.outdoorpainter.com/fresh-techniques-urban-sketching/

Fascinating article on **Artsy.net** about **10 post-war Japanese women artists to know**: Taeko Tomiyama, Saori Akutagawa, Takako Saito, Kimiyo Mishima, Atsuko Tanaka, Shigeko Kubota, Sayako Kishimoto, Tāri Itō, Mao Ishikawa, Nobuho Nagasawa.

The Article: https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-10-japanese-women-artists

Here's something I stumbled on which led me down a rabbit hole to a book that I image everyone except me knows! It's a blog called Bobbi Heath Paintings, and the article is here: https://bobbiheath.blogspot.com/2019/04/value-planes-in-landscape-carlsons.html?m=1. Bobbi talked about the book *Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting. The book explains that o*ne of the most fundamental rules is that light from the sky illuminates planes in the landscape differently depending on their angle to the sun. This concept is known as Carlson's Theory of Angles and Consequent Values, or simply, Carlson's theory of Angles. He proposes that we consider four planes of the landscape, 1) the ground plane, 2) the verticals, such as trees, 3) the plane of mountains or slanted roofs, 4) and finally, the sky.



When the sun is overhead, the sky will be the lightest value. The ground plane, which gets the full force of the sun, will be the second lightest. The plane of the mountains and slanted roofs, will be third lightest, and the darkest will be the trees. He continues to say "There are, of course, complications to this, when the sun is not directly overhead. When the sun is low in the sky, shadows are cast on the ground plane, and verticals can be in sunlight or shade. And in the case of my illustration, where the ground plane is water, the surface of the water in wind is usually much darker than when calm and reflecting the sky like a mirror. Even with those caveats, when I keep Carlson's theory in mind, I'm able to find these values in my landscape and use them to make a stronger painting. "

Here's the book: https://www.betterworldbooks.com/product/detail/carlson-s-guide-to-landscape-painting-9780486229270

WHAT I'M WATCHING:

- **Michael Palin and the Mystery of Hammershoi** (BBC): **WATCH HERE**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBhR26_GDw4
- Please No Photos! A Short Film Focuses on Tourists' Obsession with Capturing the Moment. Yasmin van Dorp's short film depicts beautiful destinations—and the crowds of cell-phone photographers who inundate them. **WATCH HERE**: https://youtu.be/FlK4JKFPf7U?si=Ic28EGr9YnMKZlAb

SHARE YOUR ART—**THIS SPACE IS FOR YOU**

Use this form to submit your art for our website and newsletter!
https://www.holtcommunity.art/behind-the-brush/

For the Greater Good

COMMUNITY MURALS: Students of Holt School use their creativity to have a positive impact on the community beyond the classroom through mural art.



Student Lead Mural
Mentorship with Kaelin
Shirley 4ftx8ft

Find Holt School murals in the Charlotte area!

2025 - Lake Norman Harbor Hippos
2023 - Charlotte Mecklenburg Animal Care and Control
2022 - Downtown Pineville, NC (public)
2021 - CMPD Central Division
2021 - "Bubbles of Kindness" in Downtown Pineville, NC (public)
2019 - Promising Pages
2019 - First in Flight Gym
2018 - Levine Children's Hospital, 5th Floor
2018 - KinderMourn
2018 - Joseph W. Grier Elementary
2017 - Levine Children's Hospital, 3rd Floor
2017 - "Life in Transit" on the Dilworth Artisan Station (public)
2017 - Charlotte Lab School
2017 - Pianos Parking Charlotte
2016 - Project 658
2015 - Levine Children's Hospital, Children's Emergency Waiting Room
2014 - Dilworth Artisan Station, Southend (public)

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