



THE ARTISTS REGISTRY @ ECVA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS, INC.
815 2ND AVE, NY, NY 10017 WWW.ECVA.ORG

***Extraordinary Artists
During Ordinary Days
September 2023, Newsletter***



***Mutual Admiration by Lynn
Underwood Colored -Pencil and Watercolor***

Featured Artist: Lynn Underwood,
a member of our *Contemplative Painters Guild*,
sees beauty in the rough and the smooth of life.

In This Ordinary Days Edition, 2023, you will find:

Letter from President, Joy Jennings
Know Our Board of Directors
ECVA's Mission Statement
Finding an ECVA Artist
Curator's Statement for next Exhibit Faith in Motion
This Edition's Featured Artist: Lynn Underwood
ECVA Conversations: Connect and Create
Contemplative Painters meets once a month
Link to Paul Gordon Chandler's lecture on his book, In Search of A Prophet
ECVA Calendar for the Fall (check on line calendar for any changes)
Renew your ECVA Membership

Welcome to the ECVA Newsletter which appears in your email five times a year during each of these seasons: Advent, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. A fifth newsletter, Extraordinary Artists during Ordinary Time will be sent out sometime after Pentecost and before the coming Advent as we will still be busy doing extraordinary thing during Ordinary days. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your comments or questions. A printable issue is stored on the ECVA website.

--Jeanne Harris Weaver, Editor
ecva.newsletter@gmail.com

Your Board of Directors Are:

Joy Jennings - President and Exhibitions Director
The Rev. Robert Tate - Treasurer
Mel Ahlborn - Vice President and Secretary
Members of the Board
Jeanne Harris Weaver - Newsletter Editor
Jorin Hood

For their contact information and to find out more about them, please go to the "Contact" page of the website: <https://ecva.org/about/contact.html>

The Mission Statement of the Episcopal Church and Visual Arts (ECVA) is to encourage artists and organizations to engage the visual arts in the spiritual life of the church. ECVA values the significance of faith, and encourages those who are engaged in using the visual arts in spiritual life.



Letter From the President September 2023

Dear Artists,

It has been quite a summer. There have been way too many hot, sunny days down this way with no rain, but, that is my only complaint. The days have been beautiful, filled with bright hopes and renewal in many other ways.

So, on a personal level, I am now a grandmother. This precious baby girl was born on July 14, which makes this retired-French-teacher grandmother very happy. (And, yes, I will teach her to speak French.)

Another big change for me was moving my parish affiliation to another parish where I have been very welcomed, very loved, and renewed in this new community. I am so looking forward to being a part of this vibrant and loving parish.

Which brings me to ECVA and to the growth and the changes that are slowly changing the face of ECVA. Our membership is once again slowly growing after the pandemic years. I cannot stress how much we need each and everyone of you to do whatever you can and whatever you may feel that God has called you to do. Our mission is to promote art in the Episcopal Church.

(cont'd page 4)

There is not a big emphasis in our church for the ministry of artists right now, and we need to be a very visible sign of the arts as a part of this church as we worship God as the Creator and author (artist) of our faith.

ECVA continues to present exhibitions online. Our next one is a new experiment in which we will present several of our video content artists to present their work. It is going to be a small but innovative move into new genres of the arts in the future. I want to thank board member, Jorin Hood, and ECVA artist and photographer, Sally Brower, for their continual work on this to make it possible.

One of our strongest programs going today is our ECVA Conversations which now has a very full schedule, thanks to ECVA Vice-President, Mel Ahlborn. Please go to our website to checkout the many opportunities to connect with other ECVA artists via Zoom. We are beginning to develop an online community that is becoming a very strong and active part of ECVA. As we get to know one another online, we hope that this may one day lead to an ECVA conference/art retreat in person. But, again, that dream will need the help of many of you to make that happen.

*One of my favorite groups that we now have in our ECVA community is our ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild which meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 10am Central. If you are interested in participating in this group, you can email me at joyjenningsartstudio@gmail.com. I am very excited to say that for our September meeting that we will have a special presentation by ECVA artist, Lynn Underwood. She will be discussing her art process and also her book, *Spiritual Connection in Daily Life*. This book received great reviews from Parker Palmer and Richard Rohr. So, I definitely hope others of you will join our group to meet Lynn.*

Stay tuned for another call to artists coming out in the near future.

*Peace
Joy Jennings,
President and Exhibitions Director of ECVA*

Anticipation

for our Upcoming Videography Exhibit:

Here is the statement by the curators,

Jorin Hood and Sally Brower

ONLINE
MID SEPTEMBER



We are honored to act as curators for ECVA's first ever short-film exhibition. This show follows on our spring class ECVA Conversations: Photography and Smartphone Short-film. Participants bravely learned new software and experimented with editing techniques to present their view of faith through color, sound, still shots, and motion. The medium of video helped participants to tell a more complete story. The class was extended into the summer through the guidance of Mel Ahlborn so participants could continue to expand their learning and continue to find new ways to let the art of image-making present their faith stories.

The films selected present a wide range of approaches to faith in motion. Marilyn Green's *Humankind* features The Sacred Dance Guild of Trinity Wall Street portraying the pathos that links the experience of people in countries around the globe. Julie Bender's *Beach Walk* takes a more personal approach to faith and utilizes nature sounds and music, and lovely stills mixed with the movement of water and wind. In a sweet touch, her whole family was involved in adding music, modeling, and photography.

Mel Ahlborn's *Lorica* highlights her individual devotional practice and a dynamic movement of image and voiceover. Nancy Carow's *Faith in Motion* showcases a beautiful presentation of the symbols, sacred gestures, and words of corporate worship. Alissa Clark's thoughtful *This is God* explores the search for God that faces people of faith when their practices fail and is a reminder of all the places God may be found.



Featured Artist: **Lynn G. Underwood**

Lynn's life has been a wild ride: research, college teaching, and writing books and articles on topics like cancer, stress, compassionate love and spirituality; having a chronic illness; being a friend and mother.

Throughout it all there has been the thread of making art. She has studied art at various colleges over the years. She did a 9-foot painting for an Episcopal Church of Ireland Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and has done book covers and illustrated children's books. Her work has been selected for area shows and she has done commissions.

Daily contemplative prayer has been an anchor for her for many years, rooted in the Benedictine tradition and Lectio Divina, using scripture, spiritual reading, poetry and art. She has led workshops and small groups to facilitate spiritual growth. She was hired to lead a women's spirituality group at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland, has led days of reflection in college and health care settings, at retreat centers, and in parishes, and has facilitated groups doing the Ignatian exercises in St Louis. Through her work with the WHO she met those from many religious and secular traditions and learned so much from them.

One of her books, *Spiritual Connection in Daily Life*, <https://www.lynnunderwood.com/book/>, uses 16 simple questions to invite people to become more aware of ordinary spiritual experiences such as awe, deep peace, joy, a sense of inner strength, and giving and receiving love, and it also helps people to find a common language for communicating with others about the role of the "more than" in their lives. It is based on research using the questions in many countries, translated into 40 languages. Lynn recently narrated an updated audio version.

She is currently working on a project focused on how difficult circumstances can help us to flourish, and how the arts can be a resource for that.

Artist's Statement:

I am passionate about touching the reality of life, and seeing beauty everywhere, in the rough and the smooth. For me, the world is an expression of divine creativity. The process of touching beauty through art enlivens my life and strengthens my faith. This can be in the faces of other people, or the natural world, or the objects in my home. It is my hope, as I draw and paint and even write, that my work can enhance the lives of others too in some small way.

"I share my art and ongoing thoughts on my blog, and I am hoping people can just follow me there if interested, by just plugging in your email.

<https://www.lynnunderwood.com/blog/>

I do not blog that frequently so will not swamp your in-basket. I appreciate all of you in the ECVA and have especially enjoyed being a part of the *Contemplative Painters Guild*.

Continued page 8



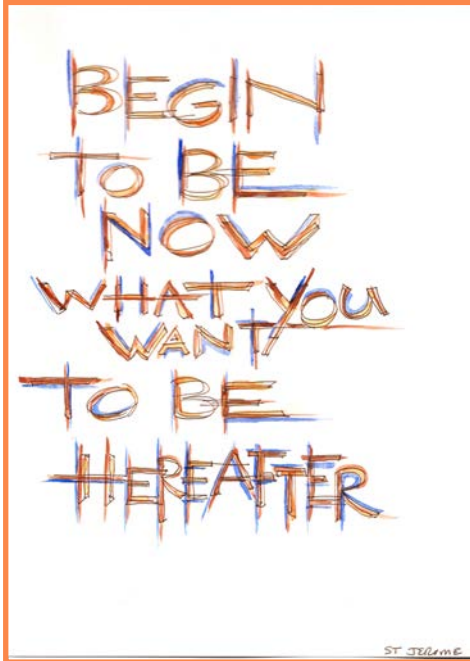
Coco

Ink and watercolor

Drawing people:

I sketch people from life: friends and family and in meetings, and sometimes I use photos to capture expressions and people I do not have direct access to.

When I draw or paint someone, I find myself becoming sympathetic to their fears, their desires, their concerns. We can never fully understand what another person is feeling or their circumstances or history, but we can stretch into that in our portraits. We are limited by our skills. But we can still move in love toward the person, and see the fundamental value of another human being, when we draw them. For me, this is a spiritual practice.



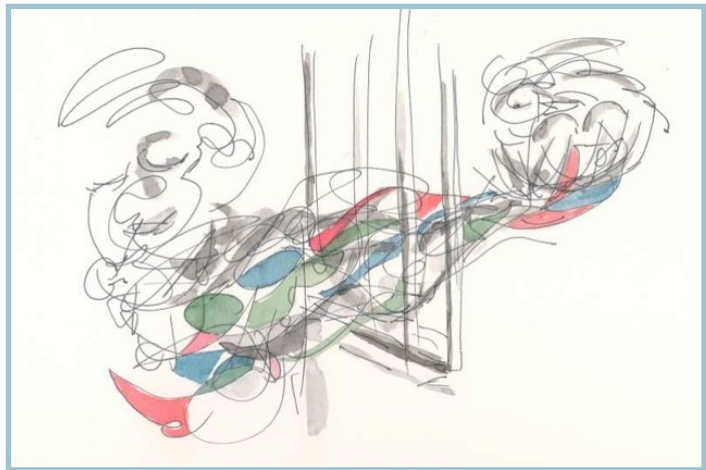
Words and messages

I am not a calligrapher. But I find that writing out quotes from scripture or spiritual writings or inspiring poetry and quotes can help me to work these into my mind and heart. And sticking them up on the walls around my house provides me with reminders. Never letting the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Quote by St. Jerome

Saint Kevin and the Blackbird
ink and watercolor

**Drawings can help me to
illuminate ideas.**



Illustrating Ideas:

I did the following drawing inspired by a poem by Seamus Heaney, St Kevin and the Blackbird. If we think of self-giving love for others as a central feature of the good life, can creating art stir this kind of love in us? And can the resulting artwork inspire others to express love?

<http://www.lynnunderwood.com/st-kevin-and-the-blackbird/>

**Drawings to express my appreciation –
of nature, of objects in my surroundings**

Just to draw the things around me helps me to appreciate them more, and sharing them with others gives me joy. Weeds outside the front door. Baskets on a shelf. The simple things around us in our life can stir us to gratitude. Beauty is everywhere, signifying grace.



Weeds, colored pencil, water color and ink

**Drawings to express my
appreciation –
of nature, of objects in
my surroundings**

Just to draw the things around me helps me to appreciate them more, and sharing them with others gives me joy. Weeds outside the front door. Baskets on a shelf. The simple things around us in our life can stir us to gratitude. Beauty is everywhere, signifying grace.



Baskets from Travels, watercolor

*I want my art to be an invitation,
and I wish I could share a cup of
tea or coffee with you*



Architecture and Setting

Art marks our history

'Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga,' Kelly Best Bourgeois



FIND A MEMBER ARTIST

The Artists Registry is a directory of artists working at the intersections of art and faith. Artists have a variety of experience levels, from working [professionals](#) to the highly accomplished and emerging students. [Search All ECVA Artists](#) below, or select from one of the professional specialties

- Banners
- Calligraphy/Manuscript Illumination
- Chalice and Paten Sets
- Digital Design
- Iconography
- Liturgical Furnishings
- Mosaics
- Paintings
- Renovation Consultation
- Sculpture
- Stained Glass
- Vestments/Paraments

Connect + Create | ECVA Conversations

Are you looking for ways to sit in the company of other artists? Did you know that ECVA artists gather regularly for artistic fellowship and creative inspiration? We do and I hope you will join us!

We meet several times month through our online series called **ECVA Conversations** and the **ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild**. This year ECVA artists heard **Alisa Clark** talk about Painting Memories; **Jeanne Weaver** showed us the Power of Creating a Series; **Rev. Posey Krakowsky** demonstrated her Spirit Driven Stitching; and, **Jorin Hood and Rev. Sally Brower** taught Photography and Smart-phone Short Film. In August, we had 2 Open Studio sessions where artists brought their current projects. **Paula Dittrick** showed us her experimental floral photography using a Lens Baby Velvet lens, **Nancy Carow** introduced us to Tilt Shift Photography, **Joy Jennings** explained key differences in various brands of oil paint, and **Rick Bellows** showed some of his photography collection. (cont'd page 11)

Our Fall Program for ECVA Conversations will be held on Wednesdays at 7pm Eastern, and includes a 2-session course on Practicing the Presence of God in Your Art with **Mel Ahlborn** of Illumination Studio, Textile Treasures of the Episcopal Church with **Marianna Garthwaite Klaiman** of Sacristies of New York, and the Spiritual Connection in Daily Life with **Dr. Lynn Underwood**. Also the ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild, hosted by **Joy Jennings**, will meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 11am Eastern.

For more information and to register for an ECVA Conversation, visit the Events Page of The Artist Registry:

<https://theartistsregistry.wildapricot.org/EVENTS>

We meet using the Zoom platform. I hope that you will join us!

Is there an ECVA Conversation that you would like to join? Or an ECVA Conversation that you would like to host? I'd love to hear from you - so let's start a conversation! Email me at ahlborn.mel@gmail.com

- Mel Ahlborn

Calendar of Upcoming Events

EVCA Contemplative Painters Guild meets the last Wednesday of the month at 11 am EST, 10 am Central, 9 am Mountain, 8 am Pacific.

ECVA Conversations are wonderful ways to connect with fellow artists, learn a new skill, or gain insight into another artist's process.

Wednesdays 7pm Eastern, 6pm Central, 5pm Mountain, 4pm Pacific and
Wednesdays 11am Eastern, 10am Central, 9am Mountain, 8am Pacific

Mid Sep - Faith and Motion Exhibit on line

Sept 13 - Practice the Presence of God in Your Art, 1 of 2

Sept 20 - Practice the Presence of God in Your Art, 2 of 2

Sept 27 - ECVA Contemplative Painters Guild

October - Spiritual Connection in Daily Life with Dr. Lynn Underwood (Dates TBA)

Oct 25 - Contemplative Painters Guild

Nov 29 - Contemplative Painters Guild

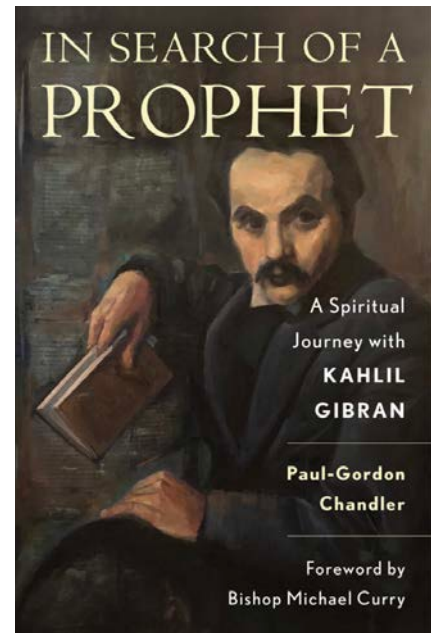
TBA - Textile Treasures of the Episcopal Church - Symbolism and Technique

In case you did not see it, the latest issue of Caravan Newsletter shared a very interesting lecture by the Rt. Rev Paul-Gordon Chandler on the book he has written about Kahlil Gibran. The book also has a forward by Archbishop Michael Curry.

You may listen to his lecture given in Texas on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQFHb41_8hc

Or see the article in Caravan at

<https://www.oncaravan.org/so/76OeLKa7Q?languageTag=en&cid=344070fe-ce7b-4eaa-9430-a96dc04c8af2>



Visit and Join the ECVA Artists Registry.

[The Artists Registry | A Division of ECVA, Inc.](#)

EPI SCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS COPYRIGHT POLICY

"It is the policy of Episcopal Church & Visual Arts, Inc. that all rights in copyright shall remain with the creator."

Visit and Join the ECVA Artists Registry.

[The Artists Registry | A Division of ECVA, Inc.](#)

EPI SCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS COPYRIGHT POLICY

"It is the policy of Episcopal Church & Visual Arts, Inc. that all rights in copyright



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH & VISUAL ARTS
encouraging visual arts in the life of the Episcopal Church

Episcopal Church & Visual Arts, Inc. 815 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10017 Copyright © 2018
All content on ecva.org retains the copyright of the individual artist with all rights reserved. For permission inquiries, contact the artist directly. Artists' contact information can be found in the ECVA Artists Registry.