

~soul~
~imagination~
~communication~
kathleen-obrien.com



20 Reasons why I liked 2020

Kathleen O'Brien Studio
2020 Review



While the pandemic is leaving behind a difficult memory of 2020, it has also come to show our collective need for love to overcome even the most difficult of circumstances. From re-imagining work/home life to finding ways to connect with each other while living in a social distancing world, we are pushing forward with faith and commitment to a better future.

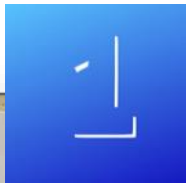
Bullseye on the aspirations I made for 2020 as visualized in the fold-out mandala I made to guide me through the year. From the first of the year until now, this change engine has kept me on track.



Key ideas of how I wanted to go forward and being in the state of love came in the journaling process in December of 2019. I learned what I need to do each day to make my dreams come true. My daily prayer started the day perfectly with two glasses of water. Good food was on the menu.

Some ideas had to be adjusted and some had to be ditched. There was never a better time to be in the right place at the right time, and to make the best of a situation.

It brings me to this moment in time of reflection for the next year, when I realize there are at least 20 things that I liked about 2020 - very important events, memories, creations.



back



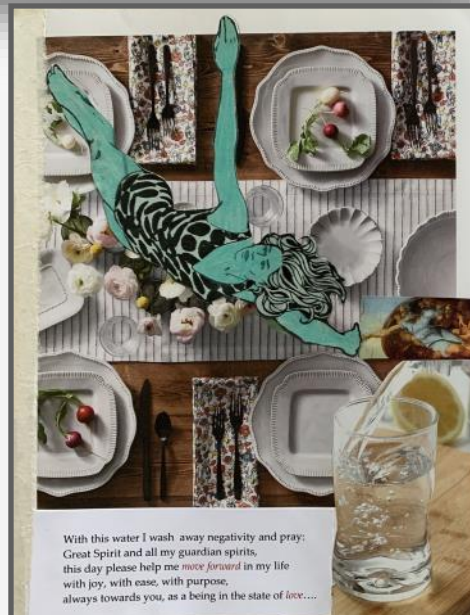
front

This is the front, the mandala itself. In the center is "being of love". The four things I commit to each day are to create, move, trust and to laugh. Surrounding that are the eight things I aspire to gain as a result.





Opening the mandala, the left side opens out showing two pages that elaborate on how the aspirations look. The National Geo magazine ad was timely, as we had a new Prius so we would have “snow” worries driving to Colorado in the winter. And yes we had fun.



We have been feeling at peace and connected, healthy.

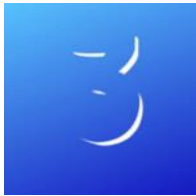
On the inside right I declare this is “the Year of No Boundaries; it comes to me, I go forward.” Little did we know that would be our last chance to get away, how happy that we did.



Our dear little corgi Cai passed away peacefully in our arms on the day our second grandson was born. We are pleased he is his little Dog Soldier watching over him.

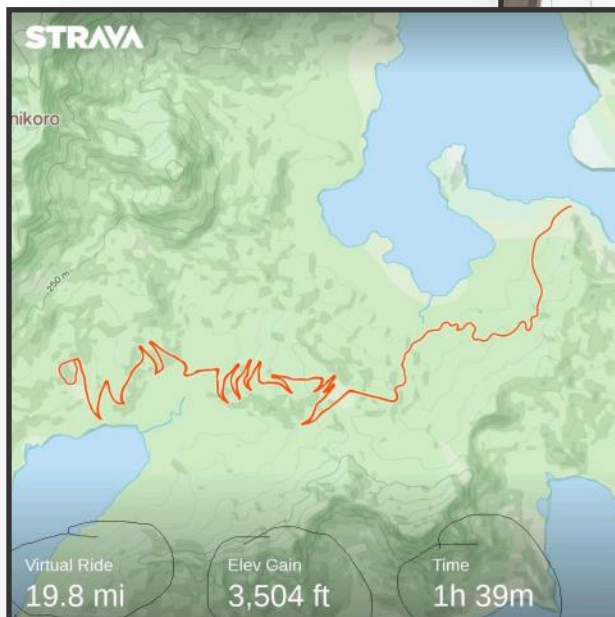
We were thrilled to take an adventurous trip to meet him, be with our children and celebrate our elder grandson's birthday.





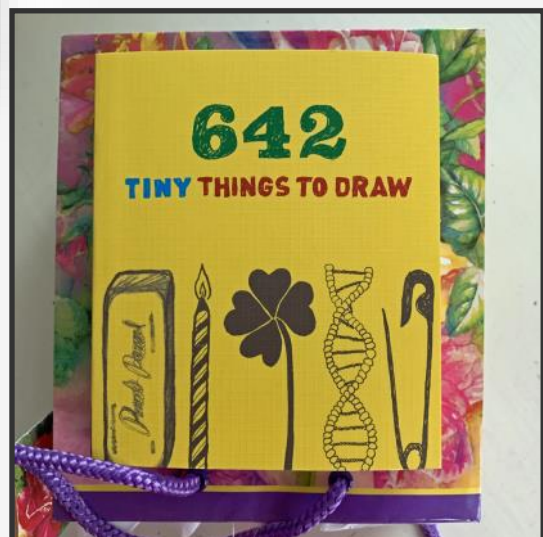
My Son

Celebrating son's 40th birthday with an album of photos and memories of his early days.



We are so proud of his discipline with bicycling, and meeting goals. Even when he had to ride indoors because of the smoke from surrounding fires.

Receiving thoughtful presents from son like "642 tiny things to draw" and Rosebud Salve that remind me of him each time I use it (daily).



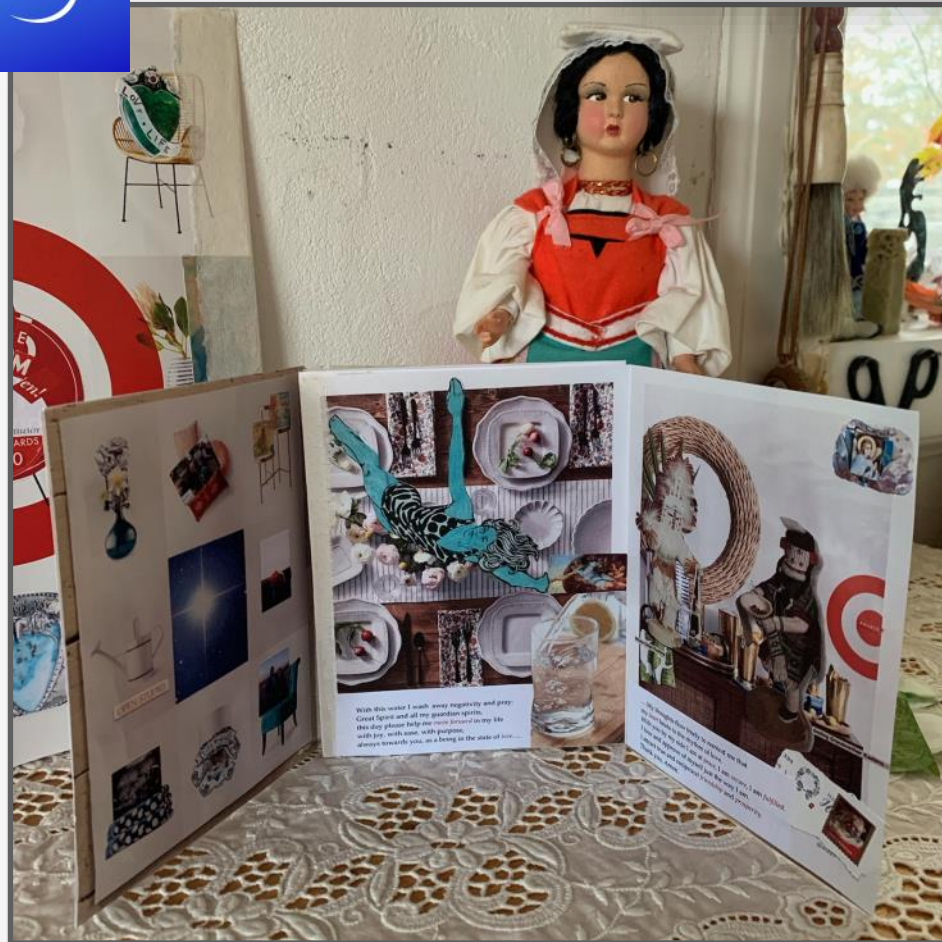
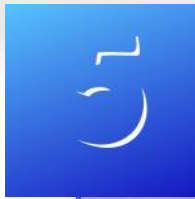


New Year, New Art Exhibit
Art Center of the Bluegrass

The one and only exhibit reception this year.

a virtual
Studio Tour
Spring 2020

[click here to see the Studio Tour](#)



On display for the Studio Tour.

The preparation for the year has helped me greatly to stay focused on my purpose through this challenging time. This is a mini version I printed so I could take it to meet my second grandson in February, travel light. On the left is the full original size.

The base is an 8 page fold out Target ad.



**ARTIST
SUPPORT
PLEDGE**
#artistsupportpledge

ARTIST SUPPORT PLEDGE

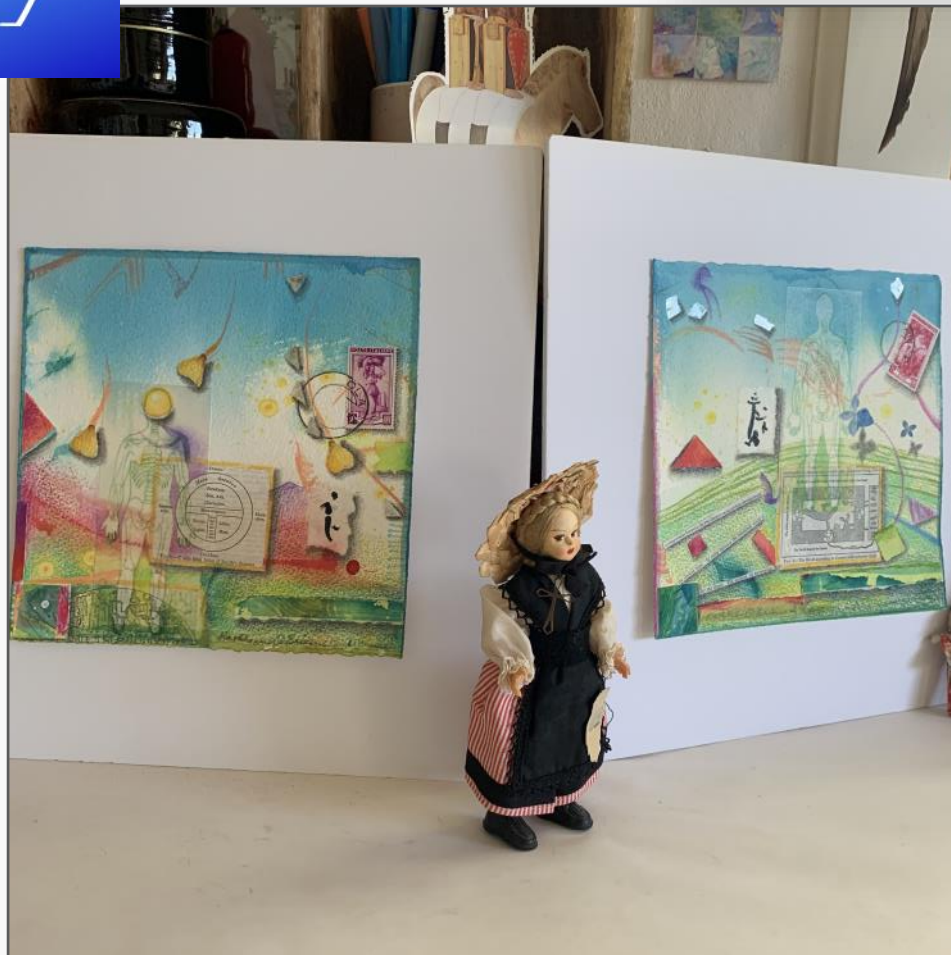
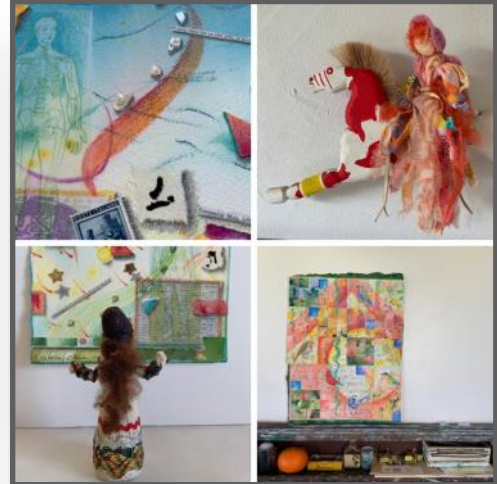
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many artists around the world have found themselves without work (teaching, technical support, gallery work), and exhibitions and sales have disappeared.

In an attempt to help alleviate some of this stress @matthewburrowsstudio has instigated the @artistsupportpledge.

The concept is a simple one. Artists post images of their work to sell for no more than \$200 each (not including shipping.) Anyone can then buy the work. Every time the artist reaches \$1000 of sales, they pledge to buy another artist's work for \$200.

a virtual
**Mid-Spring
Studio Tour**

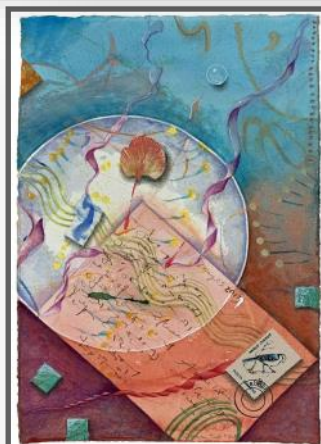
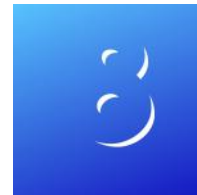
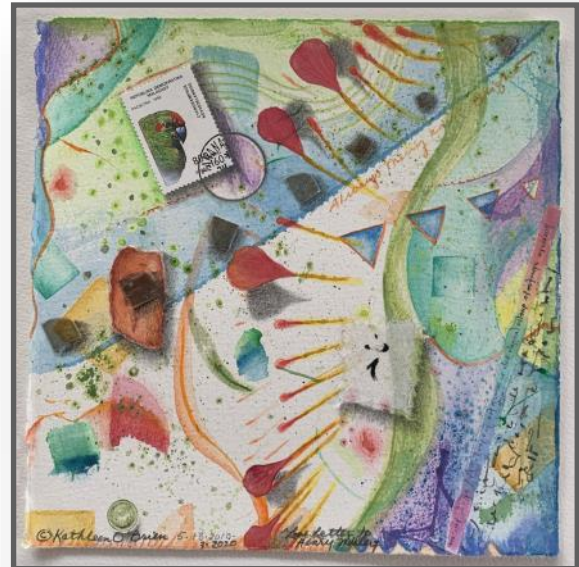
[Click here to see Open Studio Celebration](#)



Senora from Ventimiglia has dressed up for the premier of *Love Letters to Humanity*. She strikes a fashionable pose in front of *Love Letter to Humanity 1* and *Love Letter to Humanity 2*. She had read the [blog post](#) explaining the symbols, so she had to come see for herself.

Three Love Letter series.

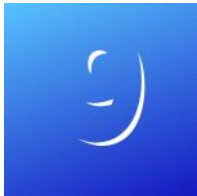
9 Love Letters to Henry Miller.
11 Love Letters to Humanity.
36 Little Love Letters.



LITTLE LOVE LETTER 1
Kathleen O'Brien



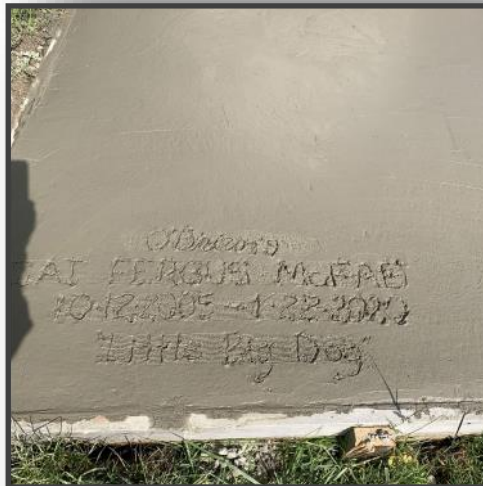
New Gem paints and brushes. Serpentine, Sleeping Beauty Turquoise and Lapis Lazuli for *Madonna Lilies*.



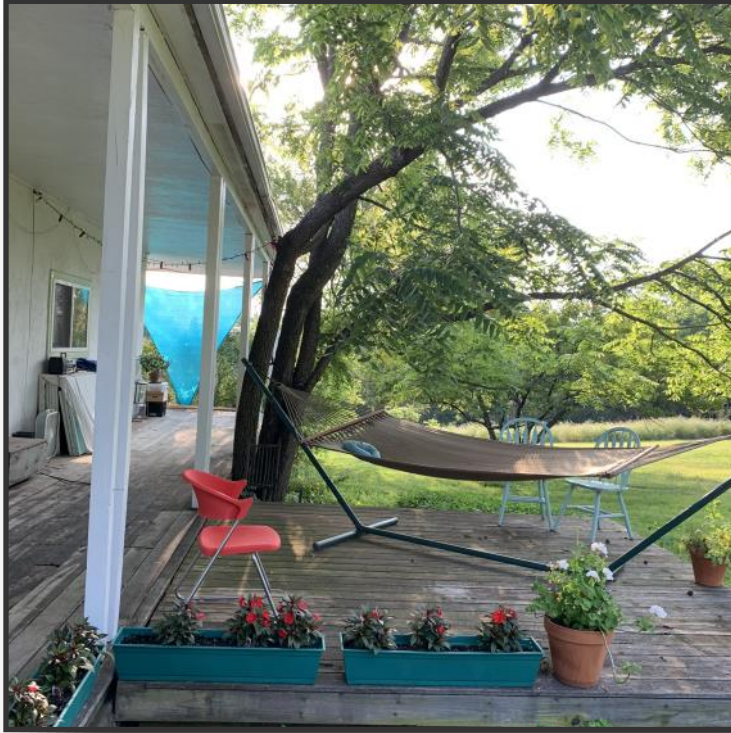
a virtual
Mid-Summer
Art of the Garden Tour

[Click here to see Valentines in July](#)

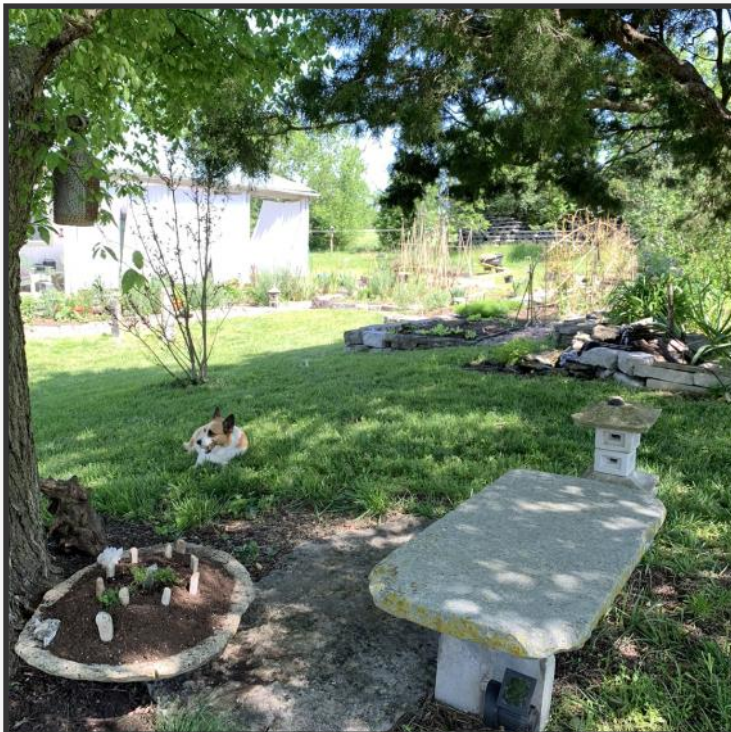


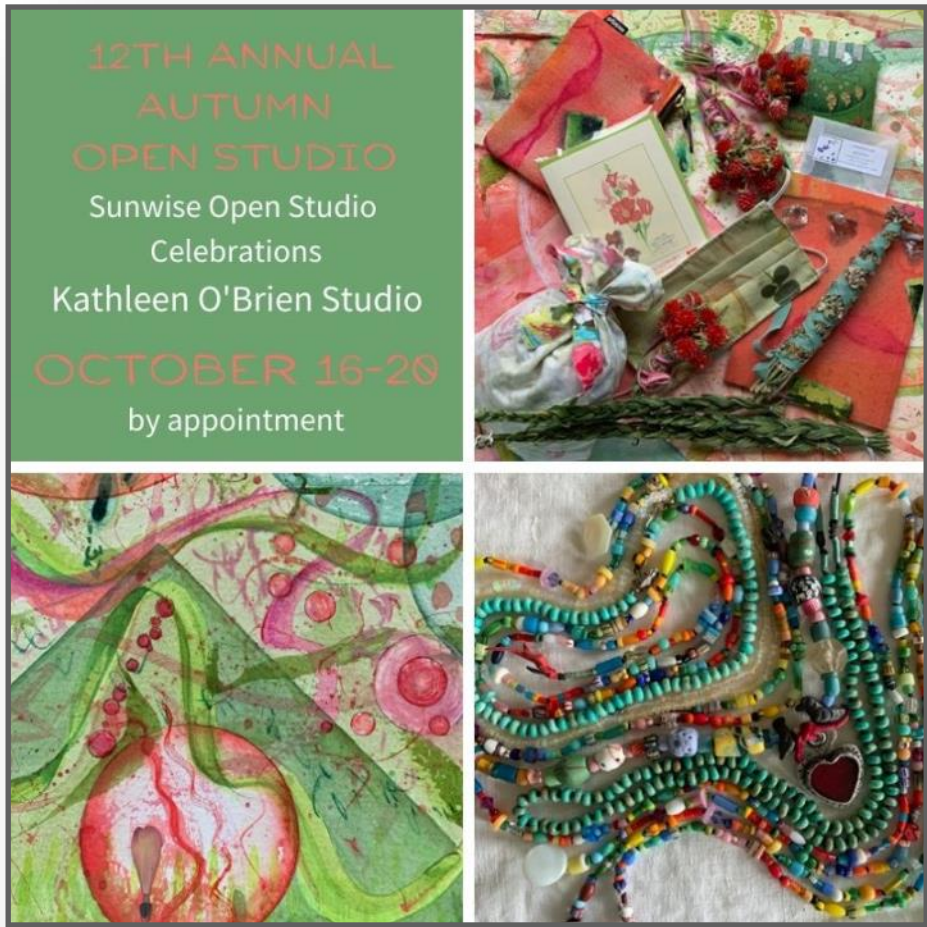


It was such a gift for Greg to be home for 4 months. He rebuilt our Shaker quarried terrace walls, thinned lilac bushes. We had wonderful gardens. He built the patio that connects the studio annex with the bread oven and Elm tree lounge. It is also darling Cai's resting place. We all miss him.



Honestly, sometimes it was hard not to just sit in gratitude for the splendor that is this earth and all its lovely growing things. And to support that growth. As I wrote then, the sunflowers are gigantic and the fig trees tower over the zinnias and morning glories become the east porch shade wall.





12th Annual Autumn
Open Studio
October 16-20, 2020
by appointment
This year's theme is [Art for the Home](#),
Gifts from the Garden.





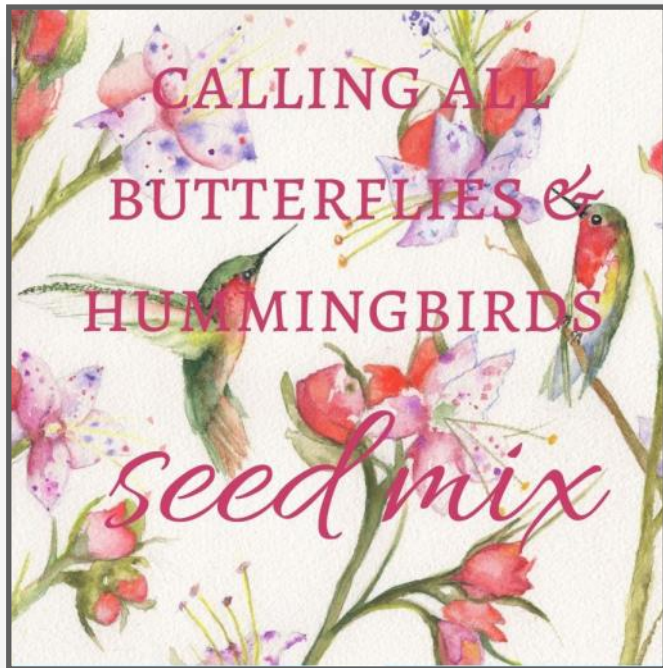
detail

Some larger paintings,
Celebration in the Faerie Garden
-
*Everything Moves in Circles and
Everything Tries to be Round.*
30x22"

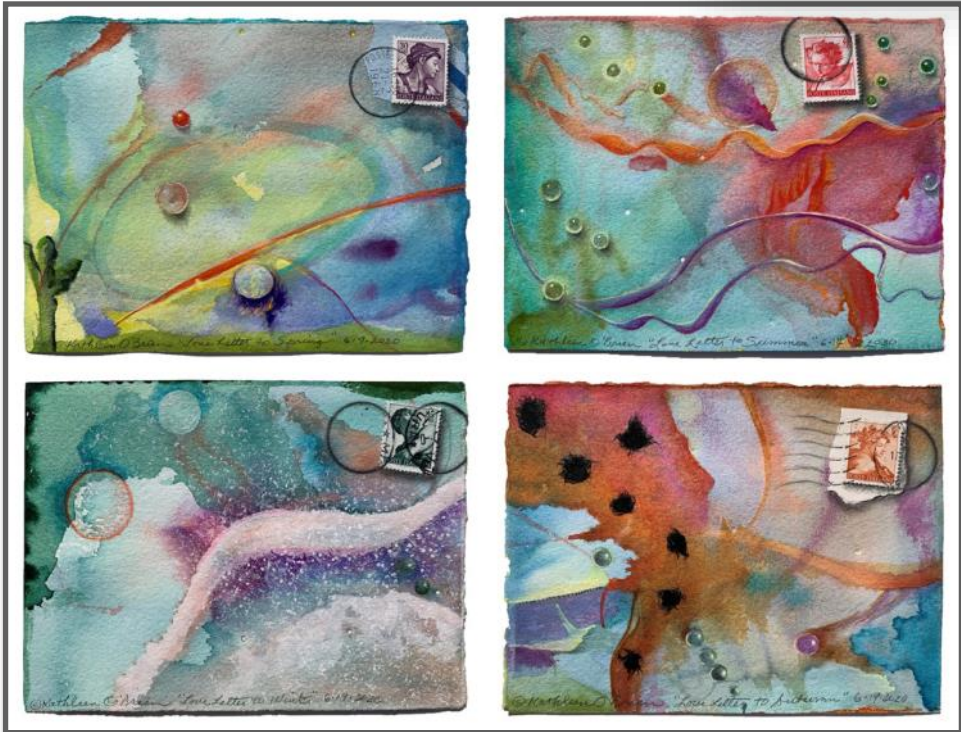


And things that fly, like summer. 18x30"

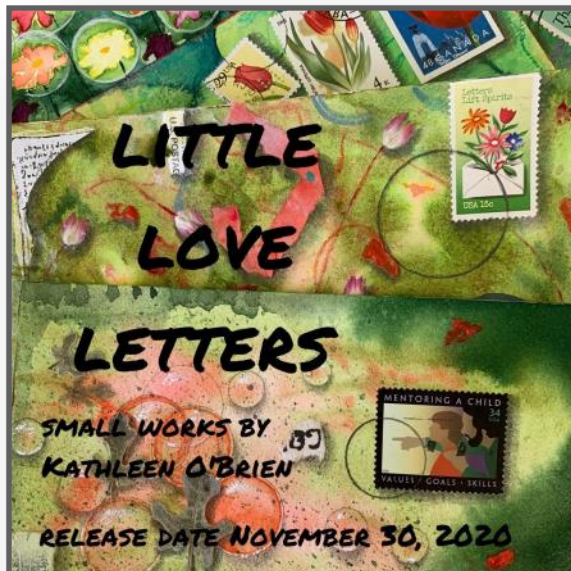




New greeting card sets and cards with seeds



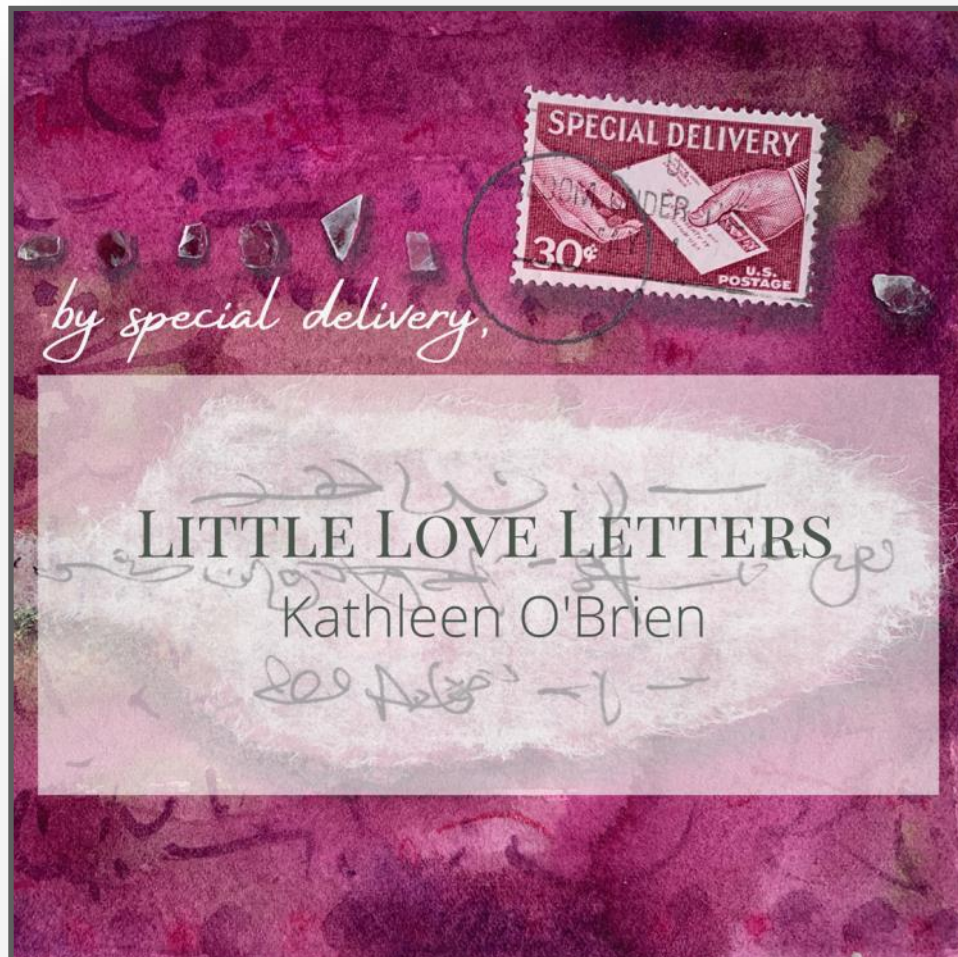
The ninth 4 seasons-4 directions greeting card set



"Little Love Letters" celebrates the joy of sharing positive messages, visual reminders to carry us through the dark half of the year.

A series of 36 postcards, "Little Love Letters" by Kathleen O'Brien is the third in series of Love Letters. Each one begins with a stamp that conveys a meaning. From casual appreciation of the beauty of nature, people, or places - Shakespeare, Charter Oak - to direct messages like "special delivery", "letters lift spirits" - each is imbued with intention to send little visual blessings.

"Little Love Letters" will be released Monday online, Nov 30, 2020 via the artist website, link is in profile. For VIP subscribers, pre-release viewing and bonus starting Small Business Saturday. Subscribe now!



People ~ friends



+ a virtual friend I meet in person, and see her art from *Atlas of the Year*, as she travels the country...

= just a *few* examples of the greatest treasures of my life, my friendships.



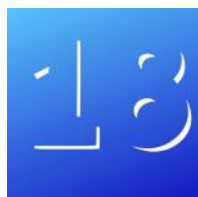
Faithful friends I have known all my life...

+ a brilliant young man who solves my computer and website problems, willing to drive here in his blue Tesla, thereby saving my sanity...






The Joy of my day is when Bel's mom and brother run over to take a walk together. This summer my neighbor and I celebrated the boy's seventh birthday. (what the heck happened to my hair?)





New subscriber landing page for the website and updated marketing items, rack card and brochure (inside shown).

ARTIST STATEMENT
 What has always interested me is what lies beneath the surface appearance of things. Observing a Sunflower I wonder; what is the sacred geometry of its design, what does it convey, what mystery gives it life? In Nature it is the qualities of beauty, transparency, layering, mutability, life force and communication which I translate into art. What I see and therefore bring into form are creations that reveal the subtle dimensions of reality. I express the complexity and fragility of the world. I revere the simplicity and strength of life. I am informed by the relationship of natural & cosmic cycles, energy, light and shadow. I incorporate the interplay of perspective and flatness, order and chaos, time and space. In the moment the creative flow connects me with my right place where I seek to touch the soul at the deepest level.


OTHER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Four Seasons
 cards and prints
 greeting cards, Giclee prints, state souvenirs

Rare Beads Jewelry

Classes · Consulting · Open Studios

Treasured Maps - personalized collage



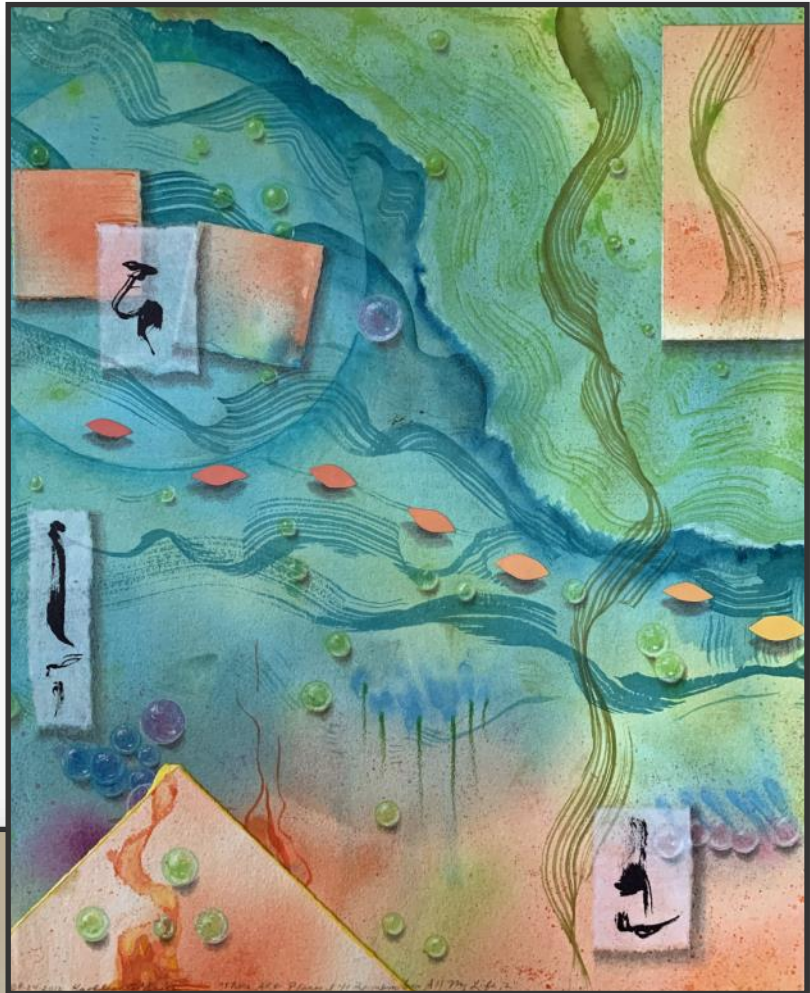

Interviews with Kate Savage of Arts Connect on ARTthrob

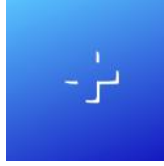
and Sergio Gomez from Art NXT Level



Good Trade

“There are things I’ll remember all my Life, 2”,
bartered for sessions of
superlative
advanced Rolphing-
Energy Medicine.
Wonderful for
both parties.



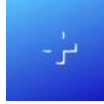


The sun streams into the studio on the shortest days of the year.
It's ending on an
upbeat with studio presentations by appointment, resulting in
new friends, collectors and sales.



32 works of ART sold





The best is last—dear husband, my best friend.

On our solar observatory of a home, Sunwise Farm and Sanctuary, the sun comes fully into the house through open door on this solstice day .

I can't help but wonder what will next years' mandala look like, what will I be sharing? I am trusting and hopeful.

