



2024 ReView

Kathleen O'Brien Studio



2024 was like having a ground hog year. These were the opening words from last two year reviews: "I titled 2022 as "The Year of the Drought", figuratively and literally. We had no rain since June, after an abundantly wet spring, so our vegetable gardens were minimal. Yet where we watered there were pockets of lush new varieties of zinnias and Celosia throughout the summer. And the queen of the flowers was Morning glory.

One of my studio goals was to create new inspired art. Gathering the artwork and events together in the form of this ReView, to see it again, gives me a sense of achievement. Won't you join me please?

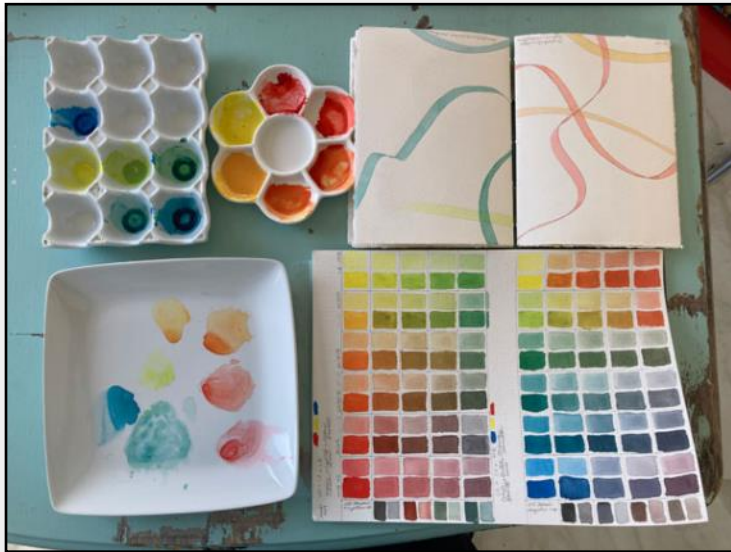




2024 began with a home studio reorganization. The storage room was a mess for starters. To pass the time indoors I immersed myself in cataloguing my inks in a Wearingeul system my son gave me for Christmas. It was time to reorganize a section of the studio for them and have them within reach. Now I had a good reference for the color or samples of how they acted in pens. I said, "Kathy, it's OK to have a hobby" whenever I questioned spending time with this. All I knew was, it was fun and I want to write more.

That triggered the whole studio clearing process. . Plus, I cleared enough space on the workbench to place our Castile soap on a drying screen over the heat vent. This sent a fragrance of olive oil into the room. Clearing this way has advantages like finding a box of mementos from the babes, and appreciating new placement of dad's music chair beyond grandpa's easel





I had a subject to paint in the journal, studio studies. If you saw this amethyst paint (Daniel Smith) you would see the sparkle of the crystal. Early in the year I was completely focused on color mixing. I finally found the perfect setup of palettes going from a single large mix, to primary/secondary, to dilutions of 3 colors, to a large open palette for extended mixing.





In February we explored the FUN of our colors, tools and materials in the Color Book Class . Shown is one of Phillip's pages in the handmade book of Arches Cover paper.





These are the last pages from journals using watercolor on Arches Cover paper that reflect experiments color saturation and value.





My friend Marilyn Matthews had an inspiring solo show. She captured herself well in this self portrait. I was excited to show her my new Midori journal using acrylic that had her business card collaged on the daily art page.





Two blind mice and two loaves of sourdough that Greg pops out each week. My doctor says it's easy to loose weight, just stop eating bread. Right. I've dared him to decline a piece.





South spring kitchen windowsill, asparagus, Lily of the Valley, sage, some of the hundreds of volunteer bachelor buttons, Horehound tincture. And east windowsill, in late November.





Our 25th Anniversary



With Spring came a new medium, acrylic. I did daily art practice in Midori journals. Now I had to learn all new colors for mixing, and create more charts to develop a palette.





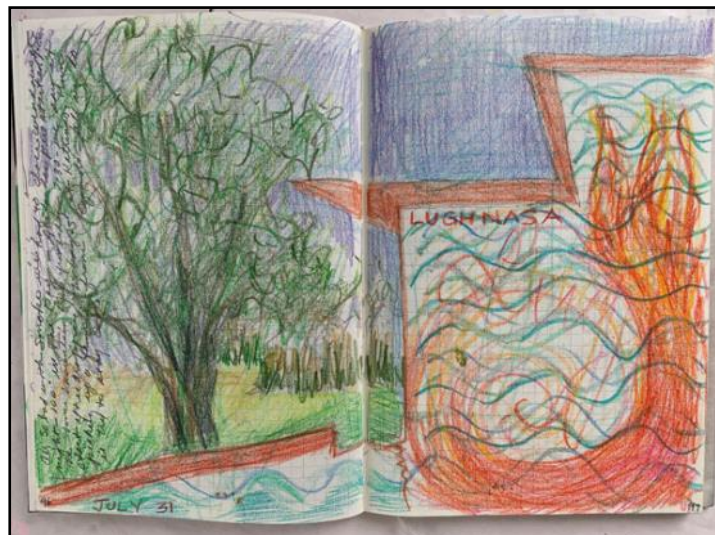
**OPEN STUDIOS +
ART MARKET**

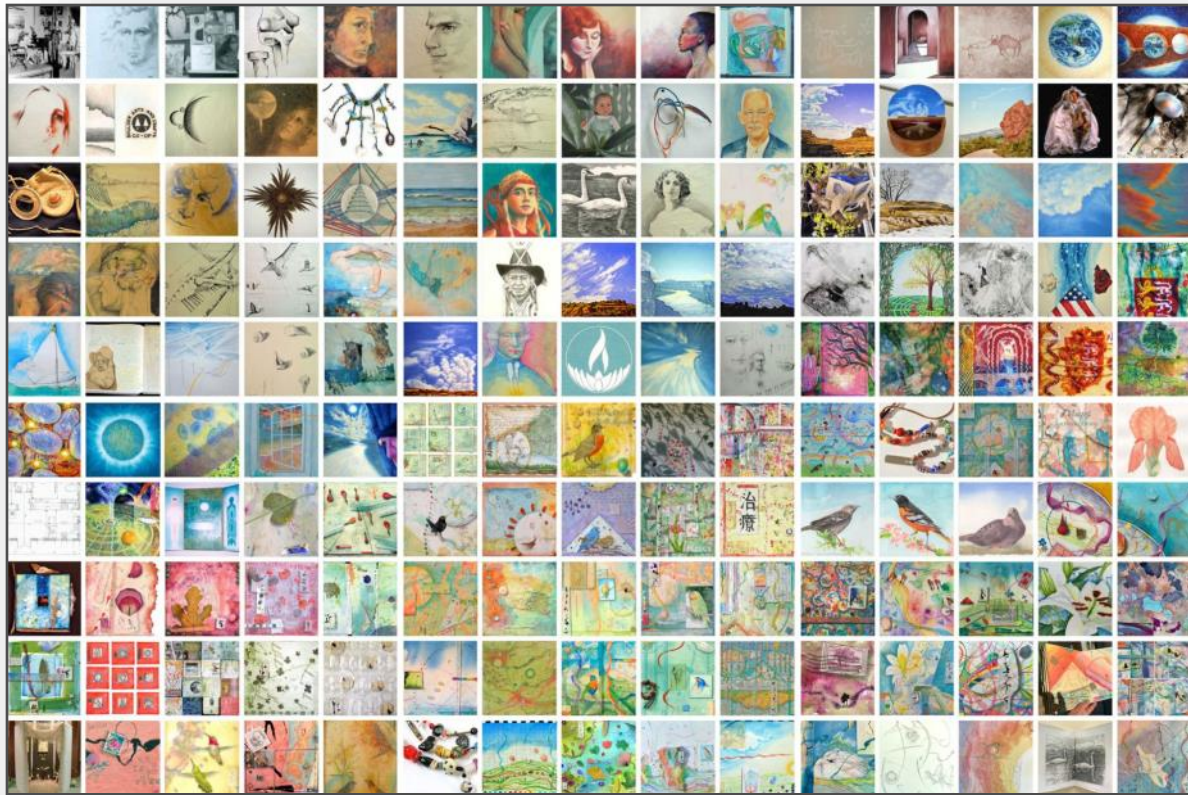
ENCAUSTIC CASTLE

WOOD TURNING &
ENCAUSTIC DEMOS,
PRINTMAKING MAKE & TAKE,
LOCAL ARTISTS,
LIVE MUSIC

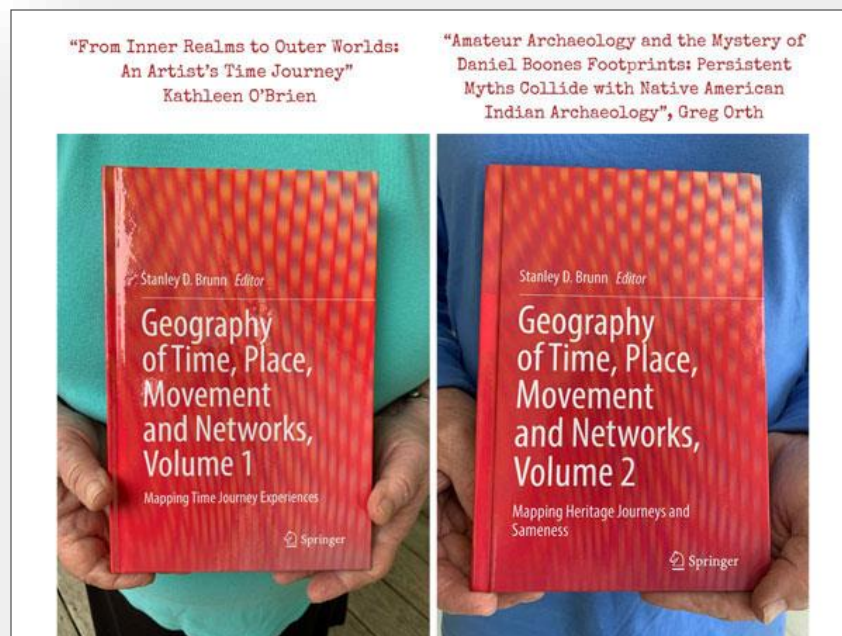
290 E LOUDON AVE
JUNE 8
11 AM - 5 PM

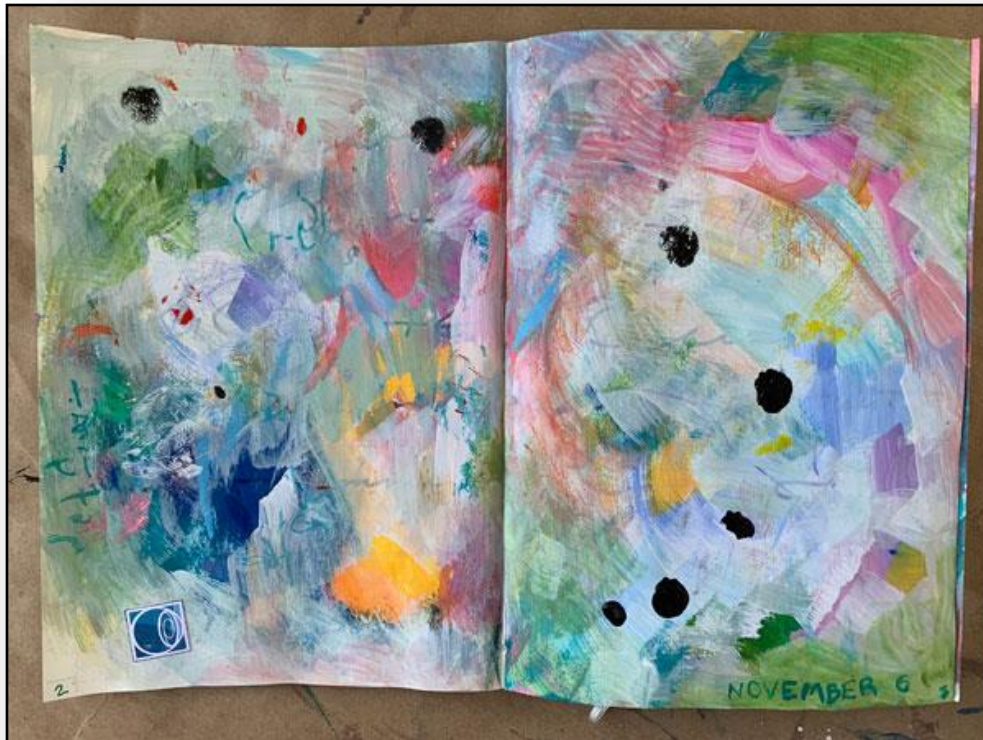
In daily art practice July 13 I envisioned our road trip in acrylic to Colorado, 2 of us bubbling along HWY 36. Not wanting to lug paints around I used graphite and colored pencil to make note of backyard trees and Coopers Hawk babies' song. Fires blazed all around us, a fiery Lughnasa. We shortened our trip.





My chapter, *From Inner Realms to Outer Worlds: An Artist's Time Journey*, in *Geography of Time, Place, Movement and Networks, Volume 1: Mapping Time Journey Experiences*, has just been published by Springer Nature Switzerland. Greg's chapter *Amateur Archaeology and the Mystery of Daniel Boone's Footprints: Persistent Myths Collide with Native American Indian Archaeology* in Volume 2 has also been published!





Check out the [equinox to equinox blog series](#) that I began on September 1, and completed on September 22. In the publication, I showed daily art practice full-page spreads and added some notes about the journey. I hope you can peruse the blog, where I devote more time to converse with you about art making. These two pages are the first painting after cataract surgery, later in November and are not in the series.



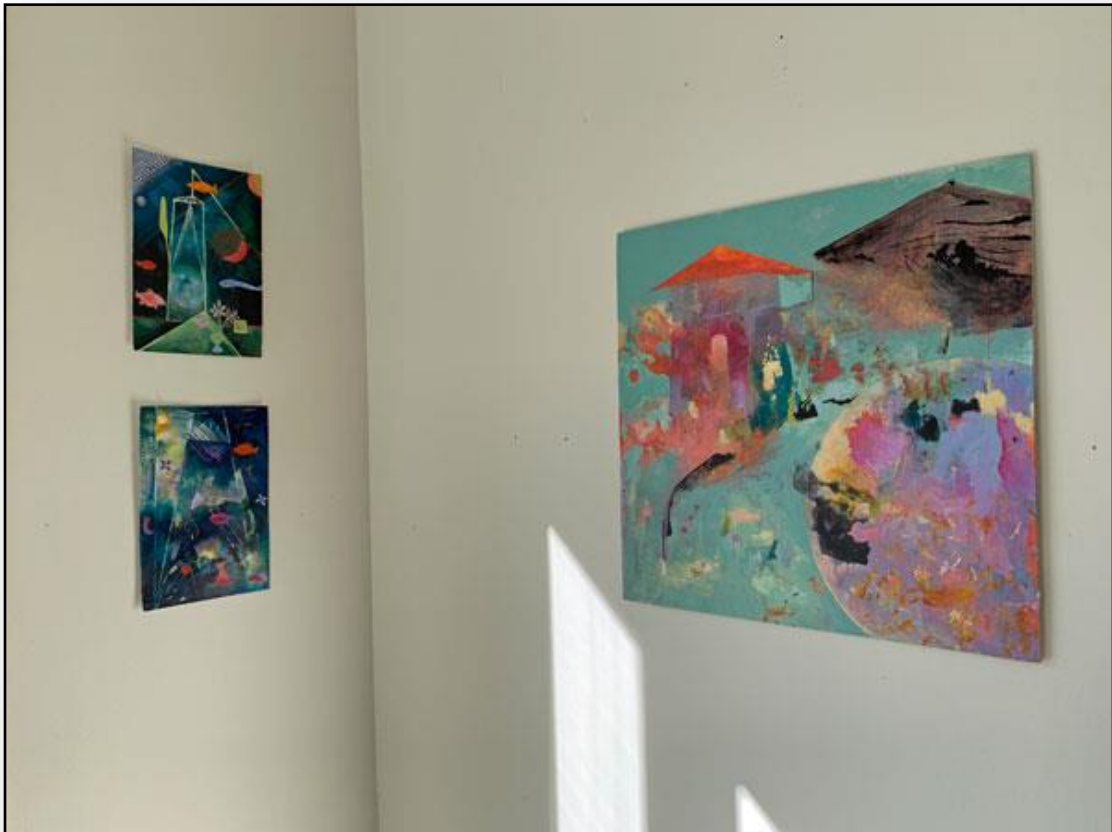


16th Annual Autumn Open Studio





Two Journals and newest work at 16th Annual Autumn Open Studio





Details of new work for the 16th Annual Autumn Open Studio



The Long Journey Home is a series of four acrylic paintings. What began as expressions of feelings, with no thought of what the paintings would become, with the only similarity being the same colors used in each, ended up being a story of this pilgrim's progress. See sequence video of each on [this post](#).



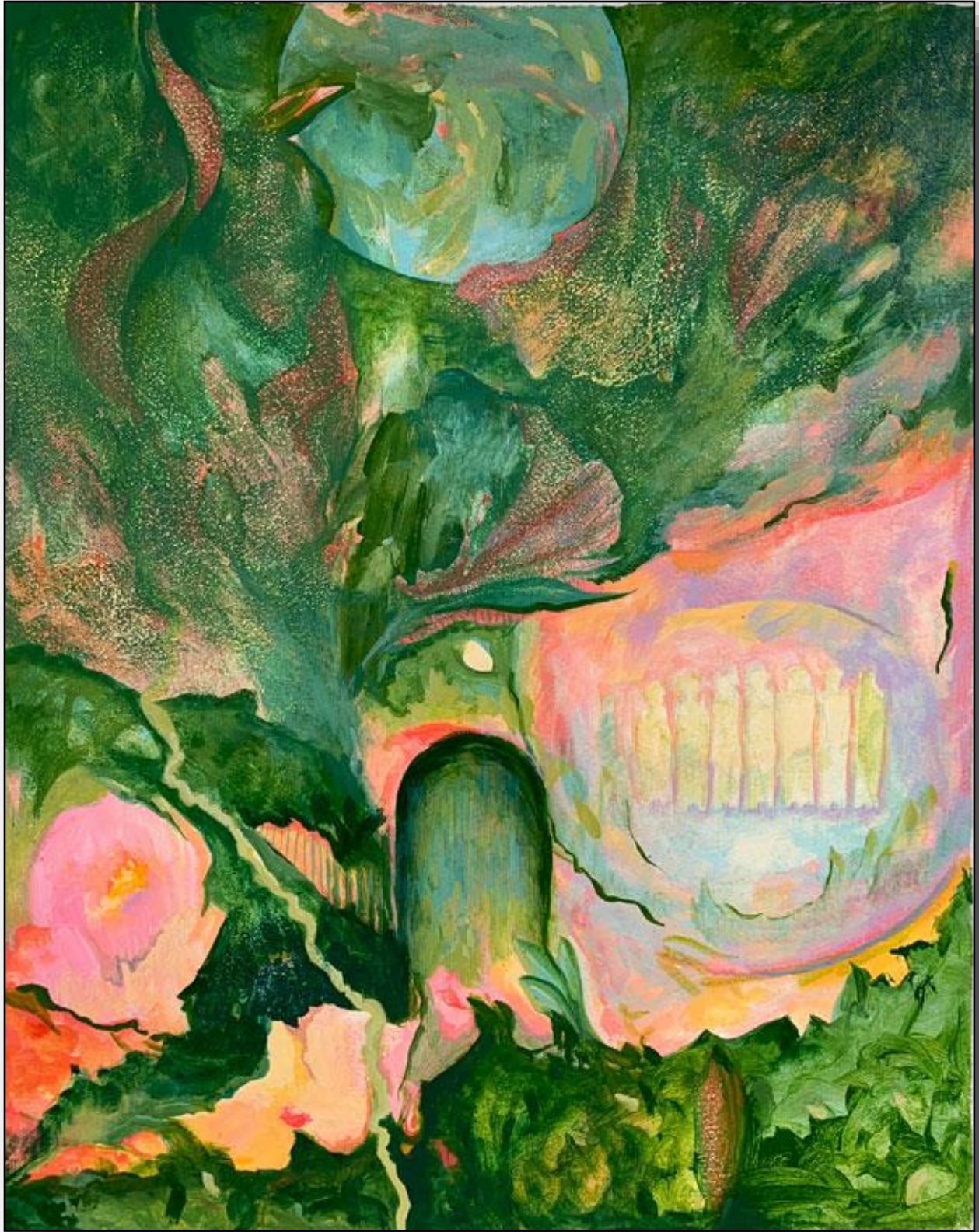
Summer Series clockwise upper left: *Homeward Bound*, *Garden Castle*, *Garden Gate*, *City on the Hill*



The lilacs my mother gave us 25 years ago were blooming in November, instead of April, so I completed "Lilac Enchantment" and wrote about the process. It began in 2010 as a watercolor, with drawing and collage. It is one of several that I experimented using acrylic paint to correct what I didn't like about the design.



“The Great Curve” acrylic over watercolor and stamps



“Garden Gate” acrylic over watercolor



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, November 16 | 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Shop for stocking stuffers, fresh garland and gifts to go under the tree from 25+ regional vendors at this holly jolly market!

Warm Bites & Sips | Cozy Fire Pits | 20% Off in The Shops



SHAKER VILLAGE
— of Pleasant Hill —

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The first ever Christmas Market at Shaker village of Pleasant Hill was fun but cold! There was a great turn out and blessedly the sun and fire pits warmed us.



As the year comes to a close I am working on the next in the series that began with “Breadcrumbs” diptych. I wrote about the stages and layers that went in to painting them in this blog post -

[“Follow the Breadcrumbs”](#).

I like this detail as a Christmas greeting.



As the year descended into it's last month we still had morning glories blooming. I picked some for inside thinking they would freeze. They continued to surprise me, and I painted and drew their shapes in my journal several times.







Our annual neighborhood jamboree, to round off the year.
All the best to you, until next time around.