

Local Artist: *Pat Lang*

BY ANITA TODD



For artist Pat Lang, painting is more than just a creative act. It is a necessity of life.

"Art is on my mind almost every moment of every day," she says. "It would be difficult to imagine a life without time to paint. I must paint as surely as I must eat."

Art has played a major role in her life since her elementary school days in Baltimore.

"I used to spend much of my childhood drawing," she recalls. "I had gotten some encouragement early on from my third-grade teacher who helped me realize I had artistic talent. It is amazing the lasting effect those encouraging comments have been, even into adulthood."

She was intrigued as a young child by the drawings in newspapers and fashion magazines, and would attempt to copy the pictures.

"I would to try to duplicate the images in the drawing contest advertisements that were posted in the papers back then," she remembers.

She moved from drawing to oil painting in her late teens. She visited galleries to study famous works, and



<Blue Spice Jar

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delved into art instruction books. Over the years this self-taught artist has developed her own personal style. Shadows, the variation of colors in nature, and the shapes of objects around her keep her artistic eye busy.

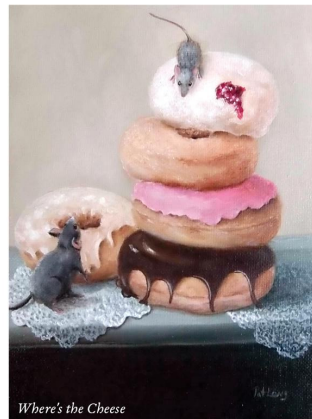
"All around me are inspirations for paintings. Shadows, alley ways, stairs, cats, clouds, everyday items around the house; everywhere I look I can see the possibility of a new painting. I like to create a scene that draws the viewer into painting, to become a part of it. Life is in the painting, and I want the viewer to experience the moment, the same moment that inspired me and to enjoy it."

She works from her home studio in Easton. Her subjects range from seascapes to landscapes. In recent years, she has focused on still life painting, arranging ordinary items in to highlight their form in a cohesive manner that is pleasing to the eye, she says.

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Five Little Pumpkins



Where's the Cheese

"I have many interesting objects in my arsenal that I have collected over the years, including antiques that belonged to my parents" she says. "When I prepare the set up for my still life paintings, I create a vignette that tells a story to the viewer."

Once a painting is complete, she often keeps it close for a short time like a new friend she is not yet ready to part with. When she's ready, her paintings are often featured at local shows through her membership with the St. Michaels Art League and the Working Artist Forum, as well as at the Alice Marie Gravely Gallery in St. Michaels.

A dedicated artist for many years, Lang continues to challenge herself daily. The very act of painting is a form of mediation, and the

process of creating works of art has helped her navigate through life's changes.

"The learning and growing never stops, as each new work of art shows me not only where I am in my art currently, but where I want to go" she relates. "My art is very much like a best friend to me. It has taken me through difficult times and given me a sense of purpose when my life needed that extra support and balance."



^ Tattered Wall

www.patlangartist.com
langjp2013@gmail.com