

FEDERATION OF CANADIAN ARTISTS *Victoria Chapter*

The GRAPEVINE

December, 2016

Hi Everyone,

As I type, the sun is shining while the wind gusts to 65 km/hr making the -1 C feel closer to prairie cold - the perfect time to embrace the Nordic concept of 'hygge'. Hygge has many translations. In the book *The Year of Living Danishly*, one author defines hygge as the "complete absence of anything annoying or emotionally overwhelming, with a focus on togetherness and prioritizing the people in your life."

Hygge is spreading beyond Scandinavia. According to *Time* online's December issue, 9 books on hygge were published in the UK this past fall. Hygge was even shortlisted as the 2016 *Oxford Dictionary* Word of the Year and on Instagram, more than 1.5 million posts with the hashtag #hygge feature warm interiors, winter cottage getaways and delicious comfort food.

The author of *How to Hygge: The Secrets of Nordic Living*, notes, "2016's events in the world have been extraordinary" (referring to Brexit and Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election). "People are feeling very nervous about the future, and feel a deep primal need to start looking after themselves. We can't control outside events, but we can control ourselves – hygge is about savouring that and not getting drawn in to the maelstrom of craziness that's going on in the world."

For artists, hygge has to mean focussing on the quiet personal enjoyment and challenge of creating, as well as the convivial gathering together of like-minded souls to enjoy each other's company in the making or the re-telling - the most immediate opportunity, the Christmas potluck below.

I wish you all the very best of hygge this season with family and friends, warm fires and wool socks.

Inga Nykwist

PS My year of producing the Grapevine has drawn to a close and I am passing the baton to the next editor – To Be Announced. If you are interested, please email info@victoriafca.com.

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Website mgr: lisariehl@hotmail.com
Art Avenue: rose@rosetanner.com
Grapevine: TBA

Join us for a little 'hygge':

Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 6 pm



Windsor Park Pavilion in Oak Bay

Potluck Christmas party at 6 pm. Bring something delicious to share and, if you wish to participate in the painting exchange, wrap (*no names!*) and bring a small unframed painting (8 x 10" or smaller). Volunteers for setting up are appreciated. Contact Agnes at info@victoriafca.com if you can help.

SPOTLIGHTING OUR ARTISTS – SINCE LAST GRAPEVINE:

VICTORIA FCA, FALL SHOW

One prize winner remains to be reported from the Victoria FCA Chapter Fall Show - the winner of People’s Choice award:

Pick a Hand
Mark Cramer

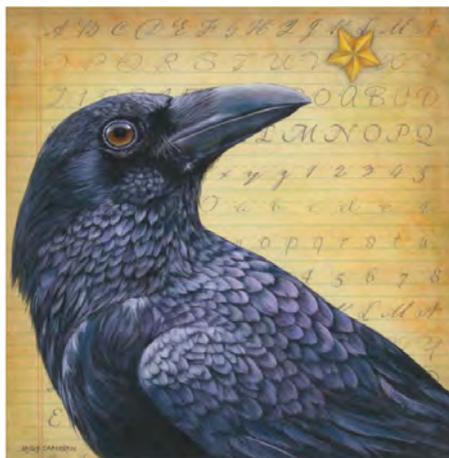


Also missing from the awards announcement at the Victoria FCA, Spring Show was the People’s Choice award winner, Marlene Howell for *Fisherman’s Wharf #4*:



VANCOUVER FCA SIGNATURE SHOW

As noted in the previous Grapevine, a number of Victoria Chapter’s signature artists participated in Vancouver’s Signature Show. We noted Sharlene Stushkov-Lee and Jim McFarland last time, here are more:



Teacher’s Pet
Kathy Cameron
(sold)

Origins
Kristina Boardman



VANCOUVER FCA SIGNATURE SHOW

(continued):

The Pleasure of Belly Dancing
Clement Kwan



Angst
Catherine
Moffat



Victoria
Eunmi Conacher



[Eunmi was our
October guest artist]



Hollyhock
Mary Conley

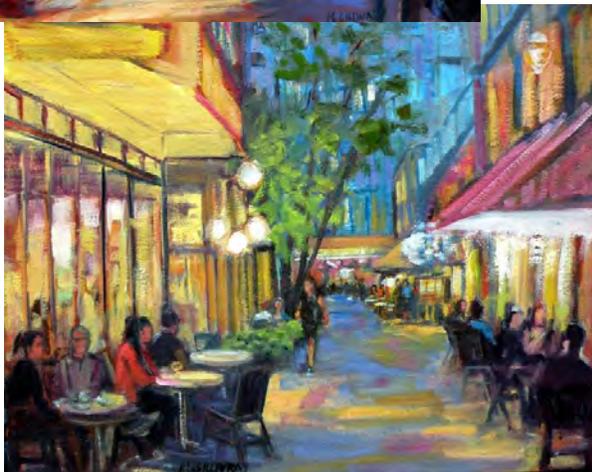
OTHER HAPPENINGS

Uplands Park
Victor Lotto
(sold)



Summer Nights 2

Susan McGillivray has two works in the 5th Annual Small Works Show in The Westmount Gallery, Toronto ,December 2016



Summer Nights

Kathy Cameron has 3 small pieces in the Winter AGGV Small Works Show (runs from Nov 15 - Dec. 31) Including, *Mon Petit Ami:*



Exotic Blue
Caroline Hunter
(from the 75th
Anniversary Show)



Snacktime
Lori (Krushinsky) McGee
(for Works on Paper Show)

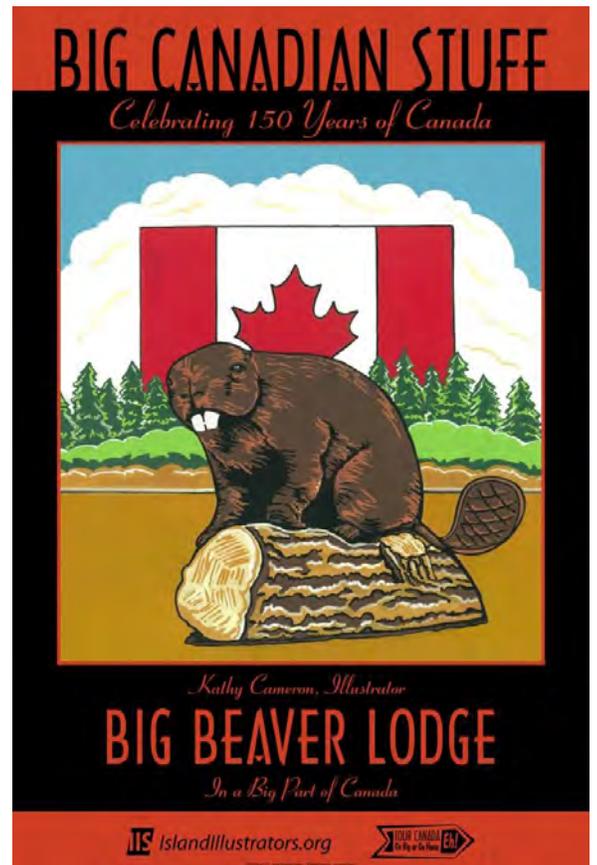


Elegance
Sharon Stone
(from her Tea Ceremony series)



Kathy Cameron's piece, *The Big Beaver*, (from Beaver Lodge Alberta) is part of the Island Illustrators Society's traveling exhibition, "Big Canadian Stuff-Eh!"

The collection of vintage style posters celebrating Canada's 150 birthday will be unveiled at Coast Collective Gallery (January 4 – 29), and then continue on to libraries and various other local venues. For more information, see www.islandillustrators.org.



WELCOME TO NEW SUPPORTING MEMBER: Patrice Gibson

An Evening with Lisa Riehl

November 17, 2016

The delightful Lisa Riehl, AFCA, generously shared her process for creating her dramatic landscapes at our last membership meeting. Lisa translates her love of nature and her passion for hiking and surfing into paintings in acrylic on canvas.

She begins by capturing images that inspire her with a camera that she almost always carries with her. Then, after selecting the desired image or images, she manipulates the photos using Photoshop Elements 10 and arrives at the final image she wants to paint. A further step to simplify the painting process is to use the 'blur' feature of Photoshop to remove unnecessary detail in the image.



Lisa then prints the image, adjusting the colours in the program until the printed photo suits the result she is looking for in the final painting. The next step in her process is to draw the image with chalk on a canvas she has prepared with either a pink or red-orange ground for a more exciting contrast, or black ground for a more subdued painting. For a complex image she may grid the photo for the drawing but generally with landscapes, she finds it unnecessary.

Once she is satisfied with the drawing, she tapes the photo resource to her easel and uses the surrounding edges of the printed photo to test her acrylic mixes against the printed image.

She then begins painting up to the drawing's chalk edges so that after the paint has dried and the chalk is rubbed off, a narrow orange or black edge appears creating a stimulating or calming effect to the eye.

Lisa continues to experiment and has begun using oils to create a monochrome black and white underpainting before applying glazes of acrylics mixed with gel medium on top. Other materials she uses: Liquitex clear gesso mixed with any colour; wax paper palette with mid tone palette paper rather than white; Liquitex Stephenson or Golden heavy body paints; open acrylics for pet portraits (as multiple layers are required); Artworld canvasses.



An Evening with Lisa Riehl (continued)



Lisa entertained us with a slide show of her paintings and explained the creation of them. For example, one painting included a background of moist acrylic paint that had been altered by isopropyl alcohol and a sheet of wax paper laid down and lifted up several times to create the random texture. A key for her is experimentation.

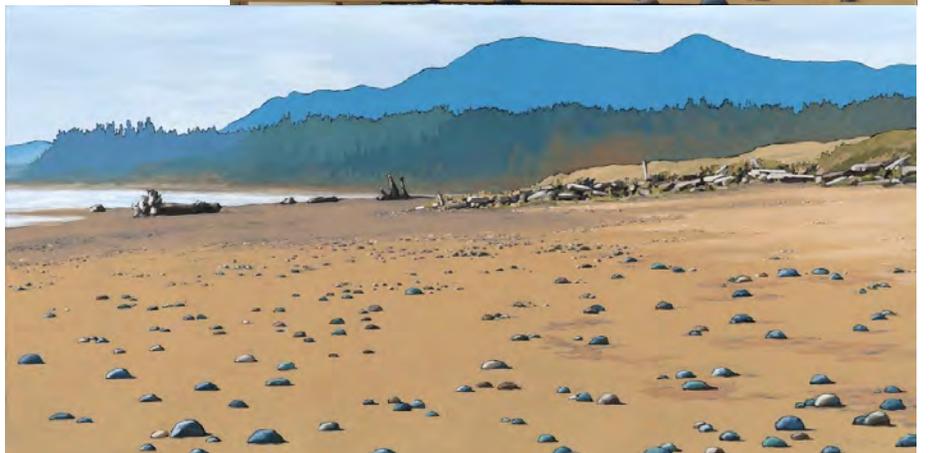
Although Lisa works full time and travels a lot for her job, she finds time on weekends to paint and supply a number of galleries. Her work is also currently showing at:

- Small Works Show - Eclectic Gallery (Oak Bay) ... now to Jan 7, 2017
- Small Works Show - Art Gallery of Greater Victoria ... now to Dec 29, 2017
- Solo Art Show - Villa Eyrie Resort ... West Coast Landscapes showing in the restaurant and lobby area, ongoing 2017
- Ongoing at Arbour Counselling Centre

For more information about Lisa's work, see her website: <http://www.lisariehl.com>.

Lisa has kindly prepared a summary of using Photoshop "the Lisa Riehl way" which follows.

Thanks so much, Lisa!



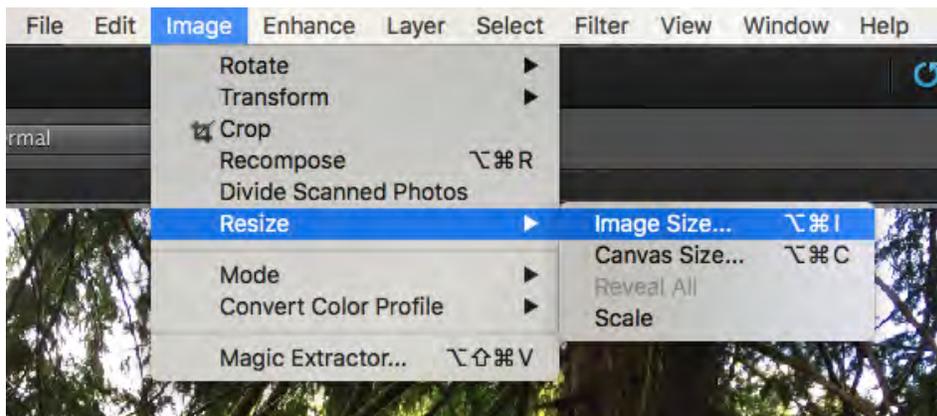
Pieces of my Soul
Lisa Riehl

Using Photoshop Elements - the Lisa Riehl way

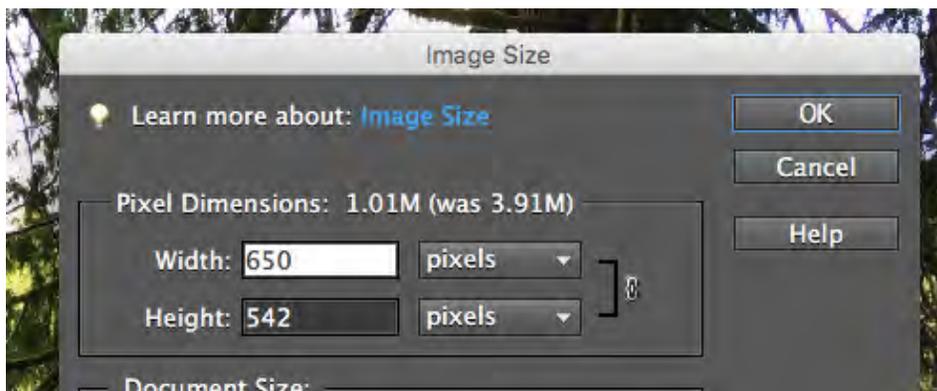
I use Adobe Photoshop Elements 10, but it really doesn't matter what version you use. I only use the most basic functions, and really don't get overly creative. But I like to simplify my reference photos to make them a little "easier" to paint from. I do this because otherwise I'm tempted to try to put too much detail into my paintings, which I don't like to do. I like my paintings simplified and more painterly. So if I simplify my reference, I know my painting will turn out more simplified.

1. Reduce the file size.

Go to the top bar, choose "Image" - "Resize" - "Image Size"



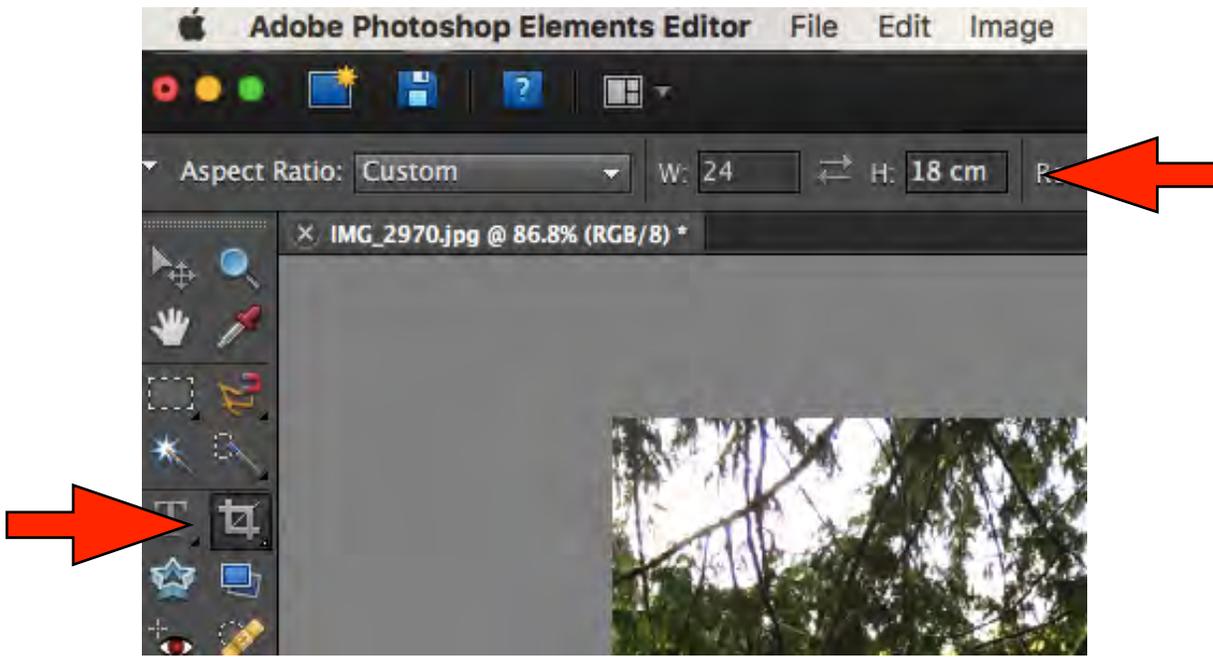
Play around with the pixel dimensions until it's about 1 M size. Click "OK"



2. Crop to a canvas size you think would work with the image

You can crop to see what the image would look like in specific canvas shapes, ie: 8x10, 12x36, 18x24, etc...

Click the Crop tool shape on the left side, then enter in the dimensions you wish to see cropped on the top. here I have entered 24 width and 18 height (cm or inches don't matter, its the overall shape you are looking for).



-then crop the image, and you can move the crop square around the image to pick the best composition before you click the "green check" on the bottom right of the crop shape. You can make the crop space bigger and smaller by going to the corners of the dotted lines and dragging it.



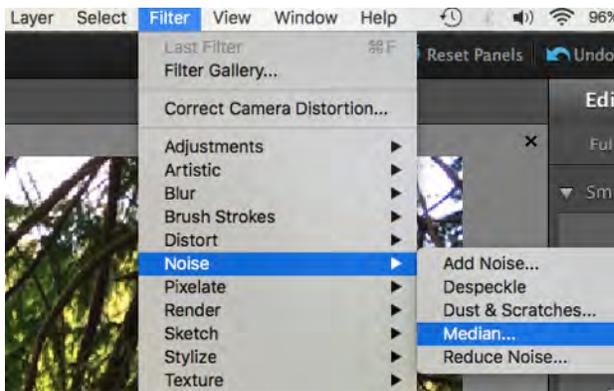
3. Adjust photo's lighting, colour, balance, etc...

On the right side, click on "Quick" edit mode.
Adjust the sliders to make photo pleasing to your eye...

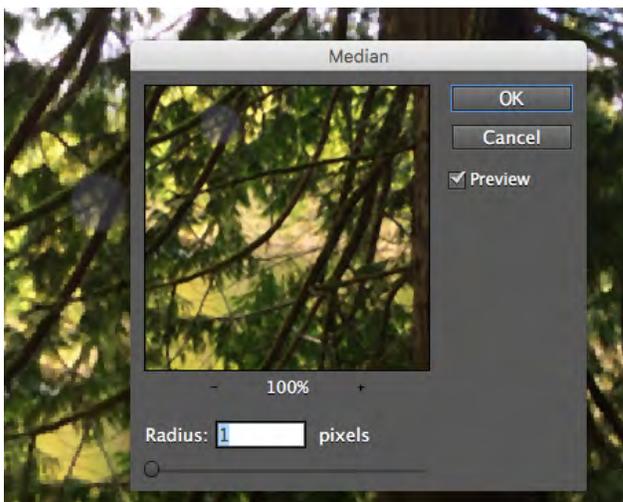


4. Simplify: Reduce "Noise"

Go to top bar, click "Filter", then "Noise",
then "Median"

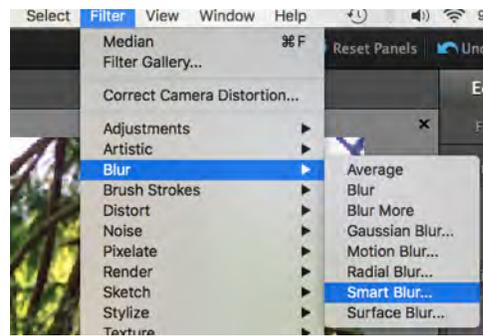


Enter a radius of "1", click "OK"

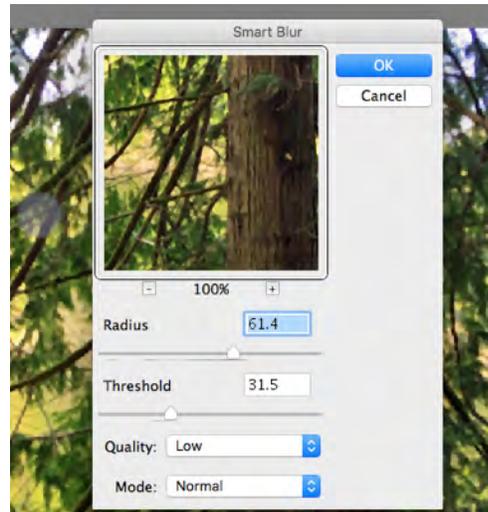


5. Simplify: Blur

Go to the top bar, click “Blur”, then “Smart Blur”



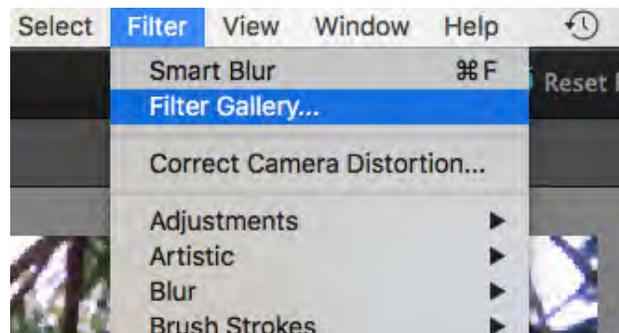
Move the slider bars for Radius and Threshold to where you are happy with the amount of blur



click “OK”

6. Simplify: Filter Gallery

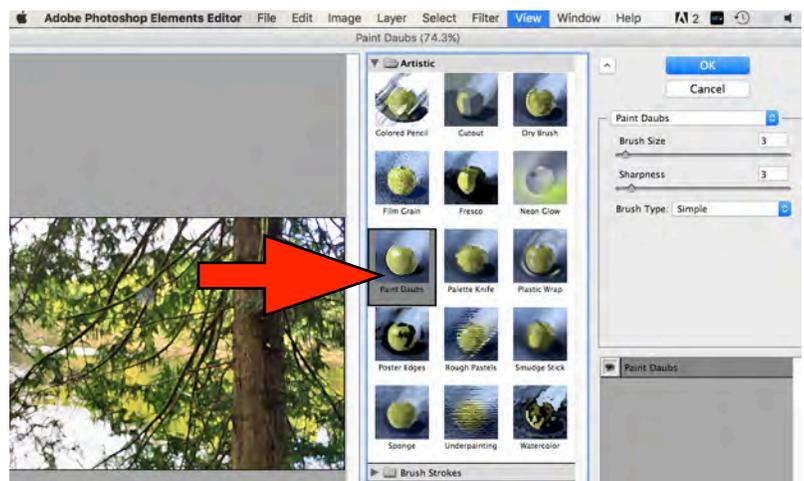
Go to top bar, click “Filter Gallery”



I like the filter “Paint Daubs”, play around with the sliders for brush size and sharpness

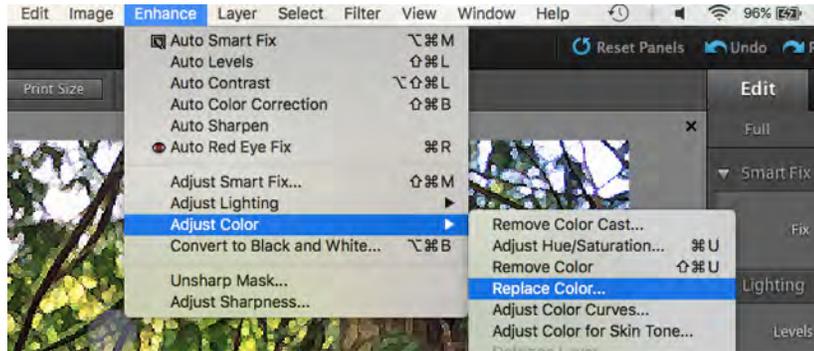
Play around with the other filters to see what effects you can get.

Click “OK” when you are happy with the effect

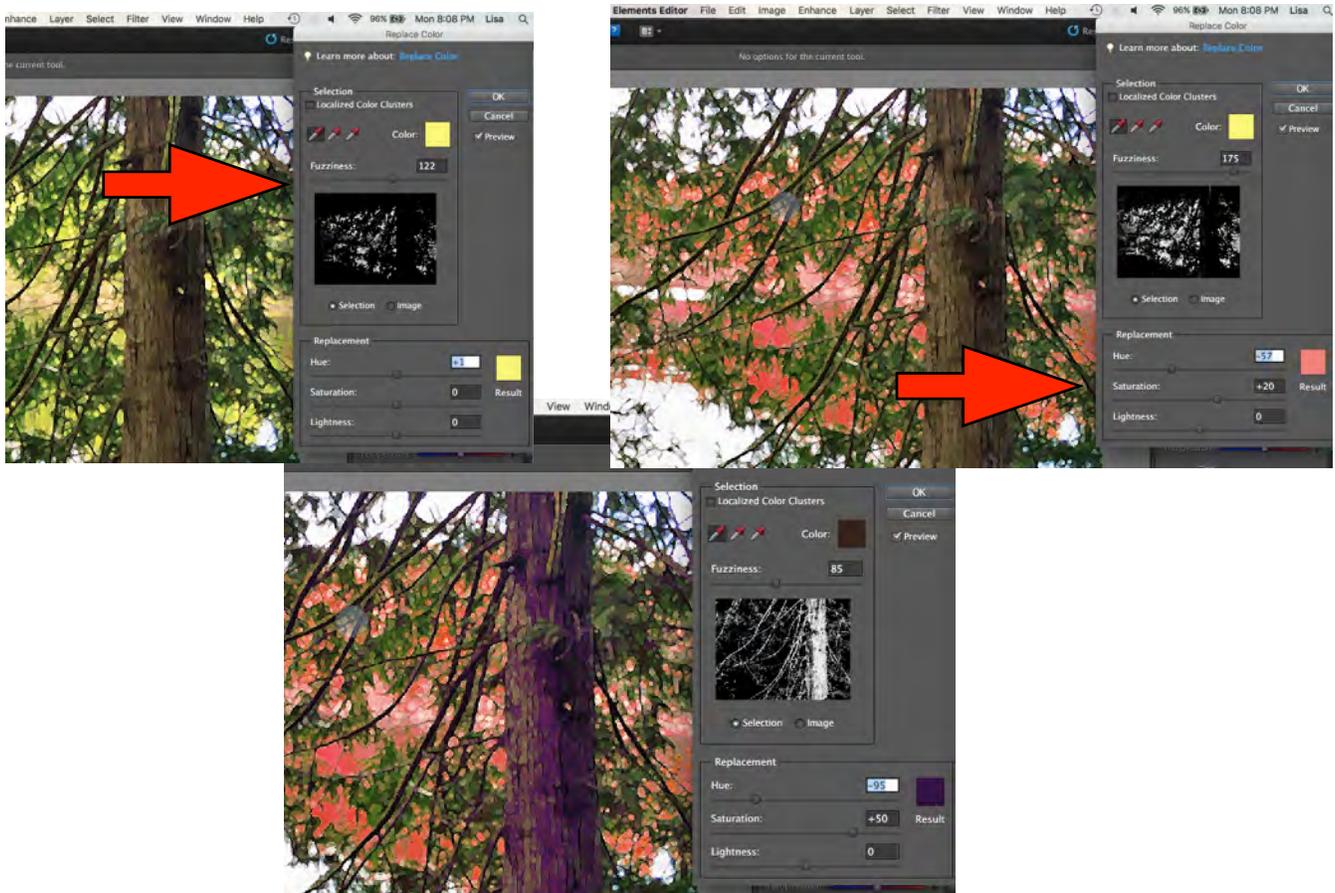


5. Alter the colours! Have fun!

Go to top bar, click “Enhance”, then “Adjust Colour”, then “Replace Colour”:



Your mouse becomes an eyedropper. click it on a colour in your original photo that you want to change. Adjust the slider for “Fuzziness” to get more or less of that colour in your sample. Then adjust the sliders for “Hue”, “Saturation” and “Lightness”. ... Have fun with this! If you like the effect, click “OK”. If not, click “Cancel”. Go back and try some more colours!



6. Save your file, print and use as your reference photo!

From Carol Koebbeman:

THE WEST SHORE STUDIO TOUR: CALL TO ARTISTS!

The Coast Collective Art Centre is hosting a self-guided tour of studios in Colwood, Langford, View Royal and the Highlands on Mother's Day Weekend, May 13 & 14, 2017. Artists outside Westshore may participate by partnering with artists within the four communities. For information on the West Shore Studio Tour, please see the [Coast Collective website](#).

VANCOUVER FCA CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SHOWS:

Exhibition Title Exhibition Details ↓	Works on Paper 	Active Member Exhibition  Submission Deadline: December 19, 2016	Artist's Choice  Submission Deadline: January 6, 2017	Canvas Unbound  Submission Deadline: January 20, 2017	Digital Exhibition  Submission Deadline: January 27, 2017
Submission Deadline:	December 16, 2016	December 19, 2016	January 6, 2017	January 20, 2017	January 27, 2017
Open to:	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members	Active, AFCA and SFCA Members
Delivery Deadline:	January 6, 2017	January 20, 2017	January 27	February 10	N/A
Exhibition Dates:	January 10 – 22, 2017	January 24 – 29, 2017	January 31 – Feb 12	February 14 – 26	February 1 – April 31
Qualifying	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Online Exhibition - No
Collection Date:	January 26 th Onward	January 26 th Onward	February 17 th Onward	March 2 nd Onward	N/A
Prizes or Awards	Awards in Title	Awards in Title	Cash Prizes	Awards in Title	Cash Prizes

****Please check the Canadian Federation Artists' website <http://artists.ca> to confirm these dates and to obtain further information regarding submission requirements and/or future shows.**



*Absolute
Serenity*

Lisa Riehl

From Marcela Strasdas, workshop coordinator:

Federation of Canadian Artists - Victoria Chapter

Invites you to our Spring Workshop

The Art of Seeing – The Art of Drawing

Sat & Sun, March 4 & 5, 9.30 to 4 pm

Saanich Fairgrounds

FCA Members: \$225

Non FCA Members: \$250

Information and/or registration:

Marcela Strasdas: marcelastrasdas@gmail.com

Mark Anthony hosts a 2 day workshop featuring traditional drawing as a doorway to visual understanding. This very rich program will lead you in the footsteps of old masters who, despite their obvious virtuosity in other artistic disciplines including painting and sculpture, valued drawing as an indispensable practical and visual experience. You will enjoy Mark Anthony's simple approach to complex problem solving for painters and draftsmen alike. Four key areas of study will be presented in three hour segments. Each will include lectures in observational understanding, full demonstrations and practical time for your hands on experience.



This practical weekend will serve to provide you with much insight in understanding and solving visual challenges and renew your appreciation for the time honoured study of traditional drawing. Come prepared to draw.

Materials: 18x24 inch Drawing Paper, Kneadable Eraser, HB Graphite Pencil, Charcoal

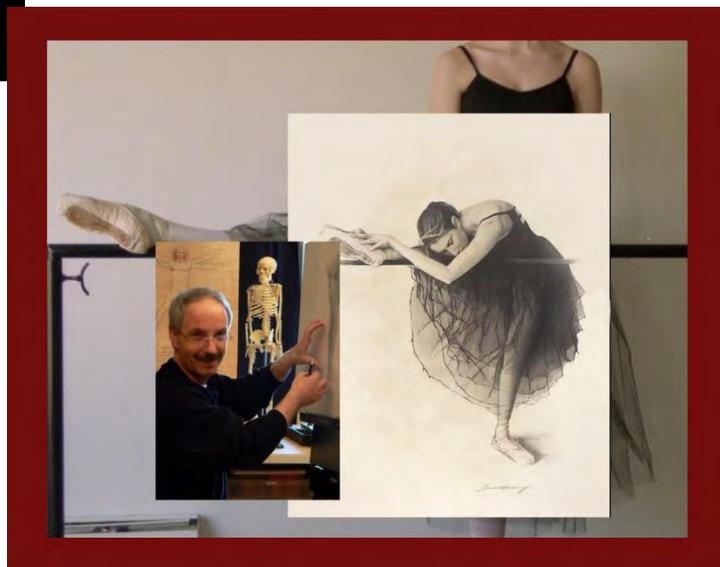
www.markanthonystudio.com

Saturday 9:30-12:30 - Light, Values, Edges, Patterns - Antique Sculpture Drawing

Saturday 1:00-4:00 - Portrait - Ideals, Structural and Surface Anatomy - Master copy and Life Studies

Sunday 9:30-12:30 - Figure - Ideals, Structural and Surface Anatomy, Gesture - Master copy and Photo Sources

Sunday 1:00-4:00 - Overviews on Perspective and Spatial Recession - Our field of view in terms of 1, 2 and 3 point perspective - Practical problem solving and examples.



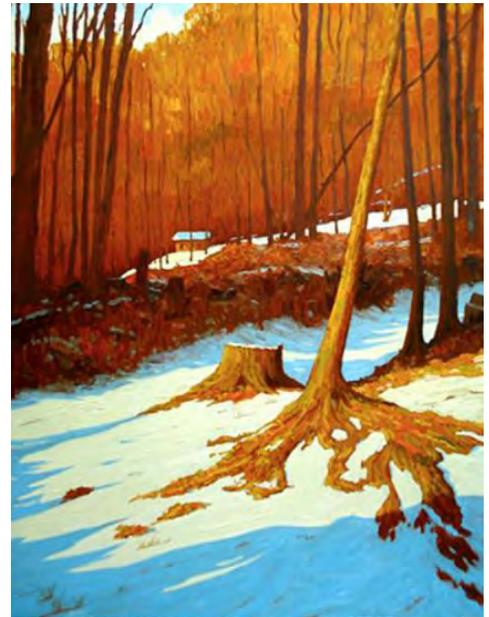
LAST THOUGHTS

Some hygge-inspiring winter paintings by local artist, Adam Noonan, from his website, <http://www.adamnoonan.com> :

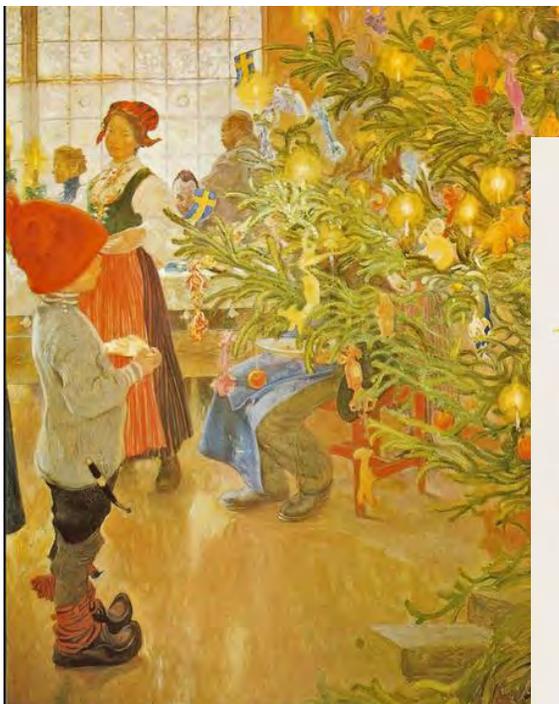


Red Shed by the Brook

*February
Warmth*



*The Veggie Stand
In Winter*



Part of triptych: *Now It's Christmas Again*



And from the master of
December warmth:

Carl Larsson

<http://www.carllarsson.se/en/>

Brita as Idun

*The best of the season to
everyone!*