

Artist Statement

"A Window Left Open" for me becomes a metaphor for an entrance into another place — both geographically and societally. I have the unusual opportunity of living for two months each year in Cape Town, South Africa where my husband grew up. The title of this show very much encompasses how I absorb the experience. To me it is a very, very different world which has opened itself slowly to me. This is the first year I've really been able to paint it.

Physically, Cape Town is extremely different from the lush landscape I know. The city is most significantly defined by the impressive dominant form of Table Mountain, which looms over the downtown. Locals, on a daily basis, orient themselves by where they are in relation to this stark mountain, which is the icon of the city.

There are actually many mountains in this range which command respect. They also play against each other, as well as the sky and sea that surround them. The swirling mists, changing skies and rolling sea intrigue me. This year I was more able to capture them to my liking.

South African society is very complex and diverse today. The economic inequality of the South African people, a residue of Apartheid, has left a significant part of the population very disadvantaged, but not without dignity. Visiting township life is an amazing window to look through. Once you meet individuals who live there, you can perceive an amazing patience, resourcefulness, determination and often resilience. This particular woman's sense of self drew my attention, as well as her wonderful sense of color. I tried to give her the respect she deserved.





“A Township Woman, Cape Town” watercolor 2013

Artists Statement

When you open a window you open your imagination.
The end is infinity,
but you can stay safely inside
- Anne Prager



“Leave the Window Open” window 2013



A Window Left Open

A few years ago, my older daughter was studying in northern Italy. After her studies, my wife and I travelled with her to many beautiful places in the provinces of the Veneto and Emilia Romagna. Lake Garda with its blue waters surrounded by silvery green olive groves was particularly special. This view, through the open doors out onto the sunny balcony overlooking the lake, evokes the utterly relaxed feel of the place. I have tried to portray as well the gentle breeze of the lake, which back up on the hillsides behind rippled through the leaves of the olive groves, turning all to silver.

~ Peter F. Shaw



Blue Birds Dance

Winter snow storms are over.
Spring struggled so hard
To bring warmer sunny days
And calm the Nature down.

I am walking down street,
I see the kids through open window--
"Blue Birds" are moving in the dance.
The little" birds", blue and white,

A bit of fear in their eyes,
Trying to follow the dancing lines.
Each soul opened widely
to world of music, dance and love.

View From My Window

I forgot to close my window
and fell asleep quietly at night.
The morning sun wake me up,
letting me start my lonely day.

I look through window half dreaming--
the mystic vision instantly appears:
I see myself to climb upstairs and reach the top,
wait a little, look around,
and go back to downstairs.

My mind changes the dreaming vision:
Amazing view, the huge ensemble buildings,--
"Prudential" appears in the mist--
Inspires me for hope, happiness,
and love, still living in my heart

The early birds have left,
made me more mature and wiser





"A Window Left Open" watercolor 2013

Marche region of Italy. An inn off the beaten path. A claw-footed, bathtub in a room with a window framing the sky. The shutters were flung open. A golden opportunity for peace and quiet. Who could pass this by?

Morning window..... The gentle clouds drifting in and out of focus in the clear blue sky. Small groups of birds flying by in one direction and another. It is all about amorphous possibility. Imagine flying out the window in this grand bathtub boat into the early sky, over the houses, hills, valleys beneath. Buzzing bees, a distant cow mooing, smells rising from the kitchen.

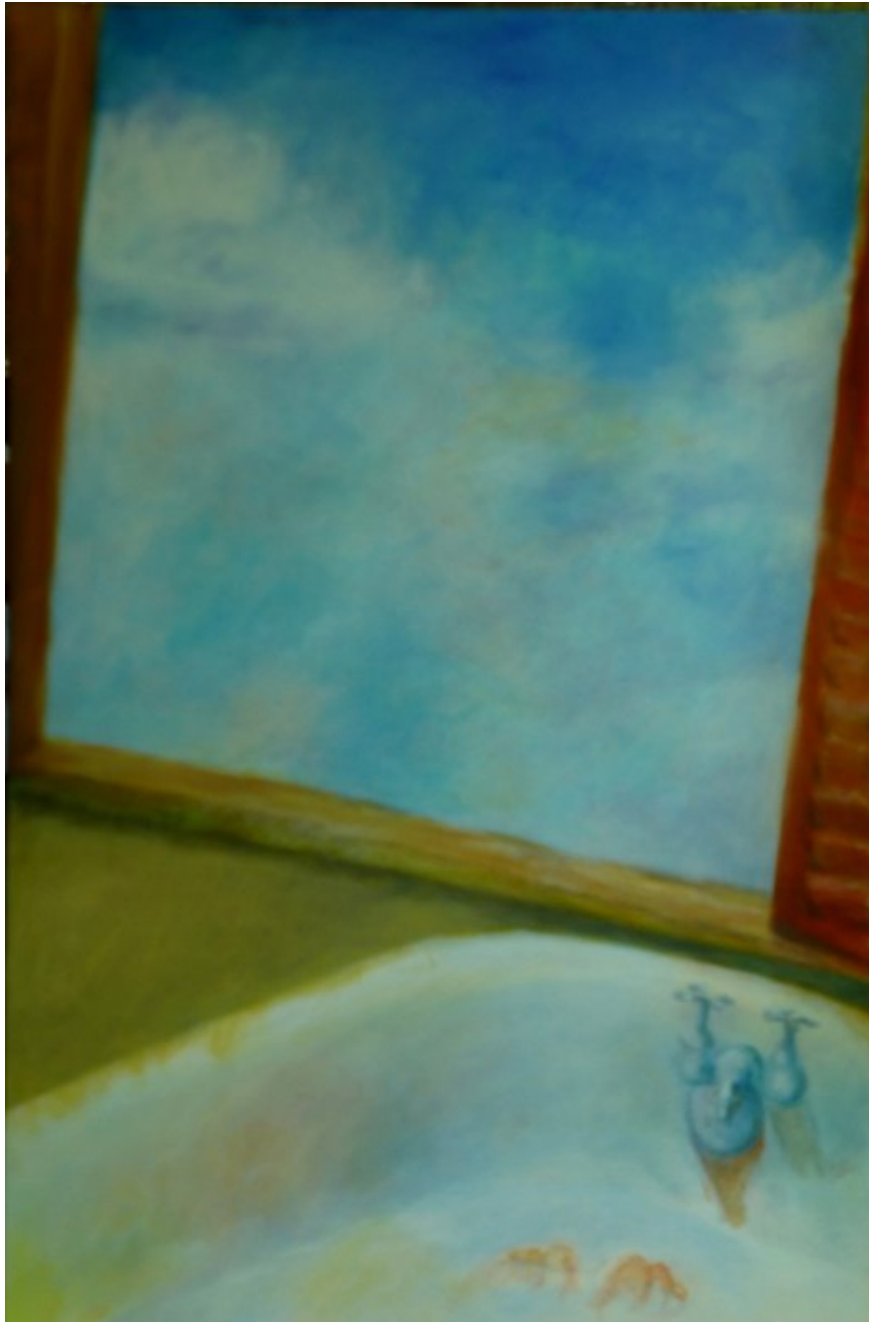
Afternoon window...a palpable glow fills the room. Everything shimmers in gold, red, scarlet, maroon. The landscape is enveloped in pure light. All incidentals dissolved in this bright chord of colors which gradually dissipates in the last crepuscular rays.

Night window.....In creeps the deep indigo of a boundless night. Ink spills across the remnants of the day. The mystery of stars as they appear one by one, seemingly tangible, yet always out of reach. Dissolving into the distances between these points of light, traversing an infinity of universes...such an accident to be here at all in this unique moment.

A firefly appears. A second one. And a third Their tiny blue-green glow bounces around the room. So infinite. So particular.

The water cools.

All this happens with a window left open.



"Reverie: Morning" acrylic 2013



Windows

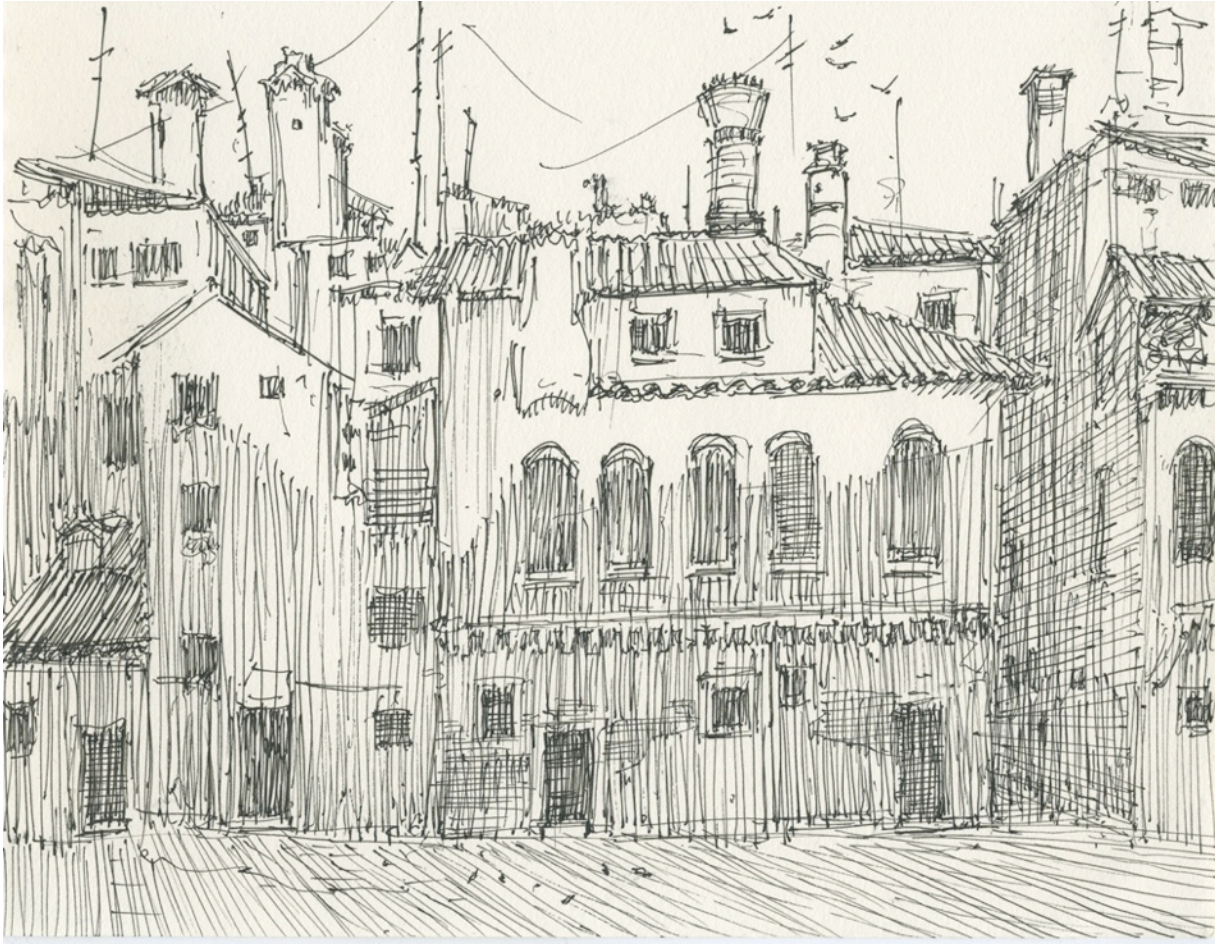
While on a vacation to Venice I became visually intrigued by the patterns the windows presented as I moved through the plazas and alley ways.

Seemingly - there was an order to the chaotic variety and placement of these windows, but how could there be? New against old, ornate against simple, century against century. Windows under canopies, windows floating above the canals, churches, mansions around every turn.

Included are 2 works inspired in large part by the patterns these windows created. "Windows Along the Canal" is my attempt to show the staccato-like effect the windows created along the canals. The second work "Windows, Chimneys, and Pigeons" a sketch done in the early morning shows the over abundance of windows in a tiny square...I may have even left a few out.

As a result I find myself thinking about windows more and more as a interesting subject for painting.

- Gary Tucker





“Windows Along the Canal” watercolor 2012

Artists Statement

Amy Walba is a watercolor artist / designer living in the Boston area. A love of color, beauty, nature, and light are, in part, inspired by the beauty that she has seen spending summers on Martha's Vineyard as well as Kennebunkport, Maine.

She feels that art both expresses and evokes emotion, engaging one to notice the beauty in everyday events; art compels the viewer.

She has been influenced by Gary Tucker, who opened Amy's eyes to watercolor, music, philosophy, and Japanese culture.

Misty Morning and Morning Sky are watercolor nature scenes that were completed in one sitting at the start of spring, 2013. The work is symbolic of new beginnings and was painted while looking out the window of her Boston home.

Amy appreciates the writing of Sujean Rím, who captures the beauty of water color:

...With watercolor, there are no perfect lines. There are many fewer rules than with other art forms, and there is no time to over think. Once your wet brush hits dry paper, you're done -- and there is no undoing what you've committed your brush to. And no matter what bag of tricks or techniques you may have developed, you are never quite in complete control.

As an artist, it can feel frustrating to not have that control. But if you allow watercolor to just do its thing -- and stay open to those inevitable happy accidents, whereby colors leak into each other or your brush runs dry in the middle of a stroke -- the most beautiful things can happen...



"Morning Sky" watercolor 2013



“A Window Left Open”

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