



## REVERIE

rev·er·ie /rev(ə)rē/ noun

A state where you are lost in thoughts and daydreams.

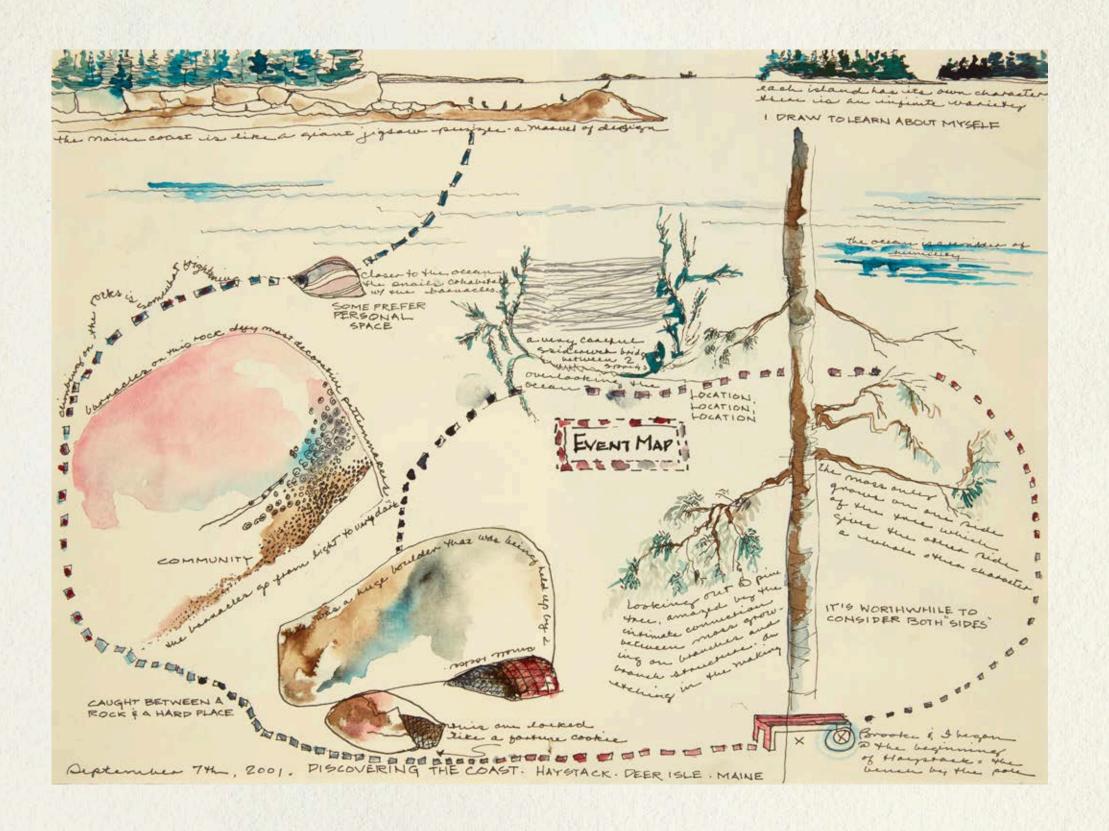
An extravagant conceit of the imagination; a vision.

A state of abstracted musing; daydreaming.

A daydream.

Dreamy thinking or imagining, esp. of agreeable things; fanciful musing; daydreaming.

A dreamy, fanciful, or visionary notion or daydream.





JOURNALING IN PLACE





### JOURNALING IN PLACE

SUSAN NEWBOLD

FOREWORD BY
PATRICIA MIRANDA



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This book is dedicated to three people who have been my loyal cheerleaders over many years and in so many ways. My late husband and best friend, Ernst, who made this book possible with his generosity and infinite support. My daughter, Christina, who has been my faithful editor. And my daughter, Brooke, who provided such valuable advice and enthusiasm just when I needed it most.



Contents

- 11 Foreword
- 15 Introduction
- 19 New Zealand
- 35 California
- 57 Colorado
- 69 Costa Rica
- 79 Maine
- 103 France
- 123 Turkey
- 139 Egypt
- 147 India
- 159 About the Artist
- 163 Locations
- 164 Colophon



FOREWORD

# Inscribing the Landscape

PATRICIA MIRANDA

EWBOLD is a *pellegrina* of landscape, a seeker tracing a winding path of purpose across the world. Her hand-bound sketchbooks, a small selection of which are represented here, record her peripatetic travel, over years and continents, from place to paper. They are situated within a tradition of travel journals and guides, from the ancient pilgrim's guide Liber Sancti Jacobi, to Eugène Delacroix's travel journals, Françoise Gilot's travel sketchbooks published at age 96, to the recent work of José Naranja. The books draw a map across the terra of our round planet in pencil, pen, ink, and watery color. We walk beside her, fellow travelers, as she narrates her encounters with soil, sky, rock, and always, water.

In the intensity of her gaze all is found equal, the diminutive pictorial space built from attentive observation, inch by inch, moment by moment, the crack between a branch as fundamental as the volume of a tree. The kinetic of her lines move over a terrain like strokes of rapid eye movement. Lines alternately describe a form, or coalesce into text in a diaristic micrography that wraps around, retitles, recounts, and ruminates on place before dissolving again into a path, a building, a bank of trees. Images stream from the page in animated polychrome motion. The books are akin to personal illuminated manuscripts, tiny text encircling, enclosing, interweaving image.

At times the drawings describe vivid detail, at others they are dreamlike floating forms, felt more than seen, reflecting location in geography, temperature, and atmosphere. Books from Maine are big sea and sky, craggy rock, jagged sharp trees; California is watery and open, colors airy and light, vegetation lush and precise. Colorado is stern and wintry, lines of bare trees cutting shapes into the sky. France reflects the ancient tilled

soil, geometric shapes of farmland and baroque houses in pale ochres and curled lines, while Egypt is a record of objects in sharp focus, photos and drawings a taxonomy of pattern.

Richard Long made a line by walking, treading a thought through a field, a temporal diary left in the grass. He inscribed a path, as if to locate himself on the planet through the bottom of his feet. Looking at his work the curve of the earth is made visible, while still tethered to the dirt underneath, evidenced by his small footprints placed upon its roundness.

Susan Newbold inscribes her footprint in the intimacy of the handheld, the handmade book. She tethers our feet through the interiority of a diary, a private form that unfolds and re-forms with each encounter. To observe requires permission and participation; we are voyeurs and collaborators as pages unfurl under our hands, close to our body, near to our heart. Meandering through these pages, our feet touch earth in a rhythmic path, pace by pace, dreaming.



#### INTRODUCTION

## Artistic Pathways

SUSAN NEWBOLD

HEN I REFLECT on my twenty years of illuminated journaling four themes emerge: trees, plants, water and landscape. They ground me in a place and inspire flights of imagination. They're tactile but also metaphysical. Each theme has a unique origin.

I grew up in land-locked Richmond, Virginia. The first time I saw the ocean as a child, I knew that I belonged near water. My whole life I've sought out the opportunity to be near it. Oceans/lakes/rivers are my artistic muse.

I find bodies of water to be an infinite resource of line, patterns, organic

movement, serenity, exhilaration and joy. I hope these pages reflect the devotion that water inspires.

Landscape both invites me in and sends me inside myself. It can feel like home or an alien land, depending upon the physical conditions.

Cold, heat, wind, fog, rain and sunshine frame an artistic moment that I capture with watercolor, ink and other mixed media.

After spending time in a location — attempting to capture it, to make it one's own — it BELONGS to you. You are the interpreter for the viewer and express a unique vision. Looking at an image transports the viewer there through texture, color and energy. I find the most elusive dimension is the light and how it refracts through color.

After these years of observation with pen and color I am acutely aware that I have only just begun. The extraordinary beauty of a place enlarges

the spirit, and trees, plants, water and landscape are just the beginning.

I record what I see as visual feasts for enjoyment but, more importantly,

I want to inspire others to take on their own adventure through

illuminated journals.

The places in this book have been most influential to my process — Maine, California, New Zealand, France, Costa Rica, Colorado, Egypt and India. Each is unique and extraordinary in its own way. I look forward to your discoveries!

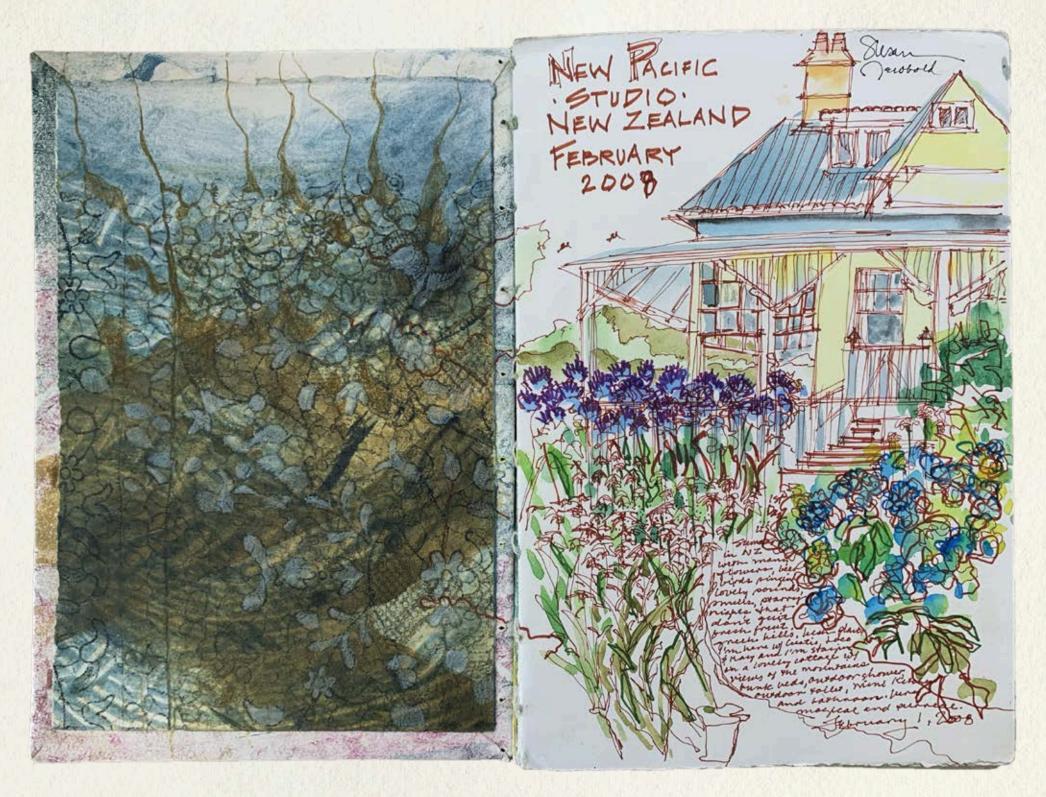


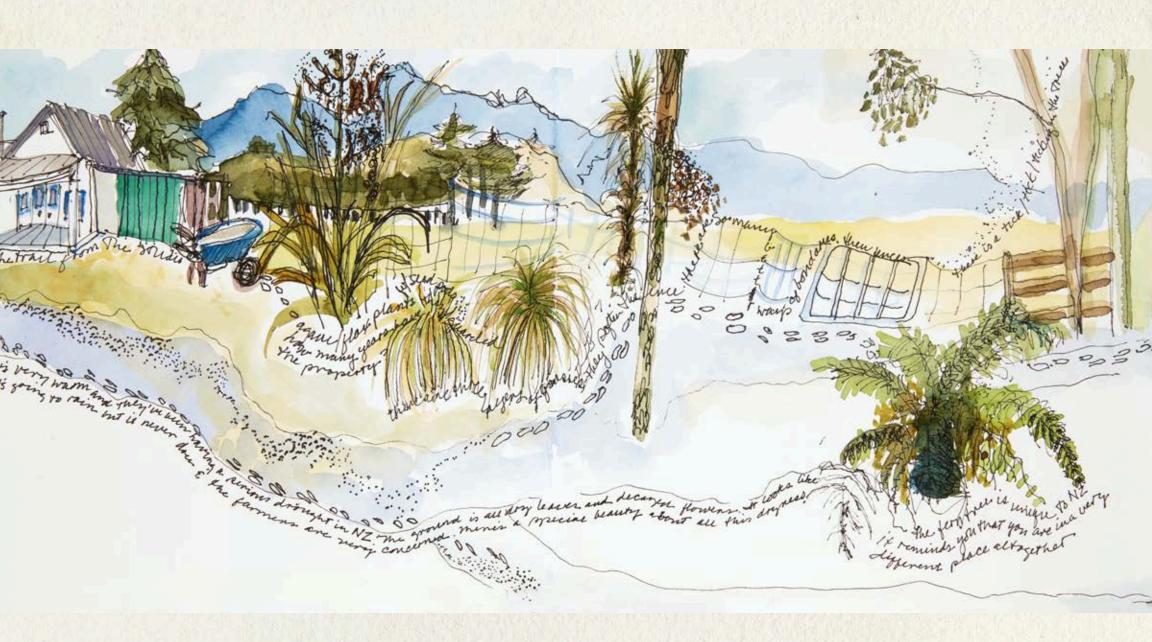
# Ew Zealand

EW ZEALAND IS SUCH A BREATH of fresh air. The richness and variety of the landscape were a daily inspiration, from the fauna and flora to the incredible majesty of the fjords of Milford Sound with breathtaking waterfalls. With so much beauty, it was hard to focus! I started each morning outside my studio with a small 6 x 6 inch watercolor or sketch of something that caught my eye. This amazing location sent me in so many new directions because of its splendid variety.

I loved meeting the locals and learning about what made them proud of their country. A great deal had been done to restore the lush environment from a history of cutting down trees indiscriminately. There were still stumps everywhere, sometimes with new trees growing out of them. I was enthralled with these stumps – so organic and twisted.

My life was simple in New Zealand, and as a consequence, it heightened my awareness of the surroundings. I rose early and was greeted by members of the extensive rabbit population. I had a special appreciation of the Red Hot Poker flower because of how it lit up the landscape. Every walk was a reverie.



































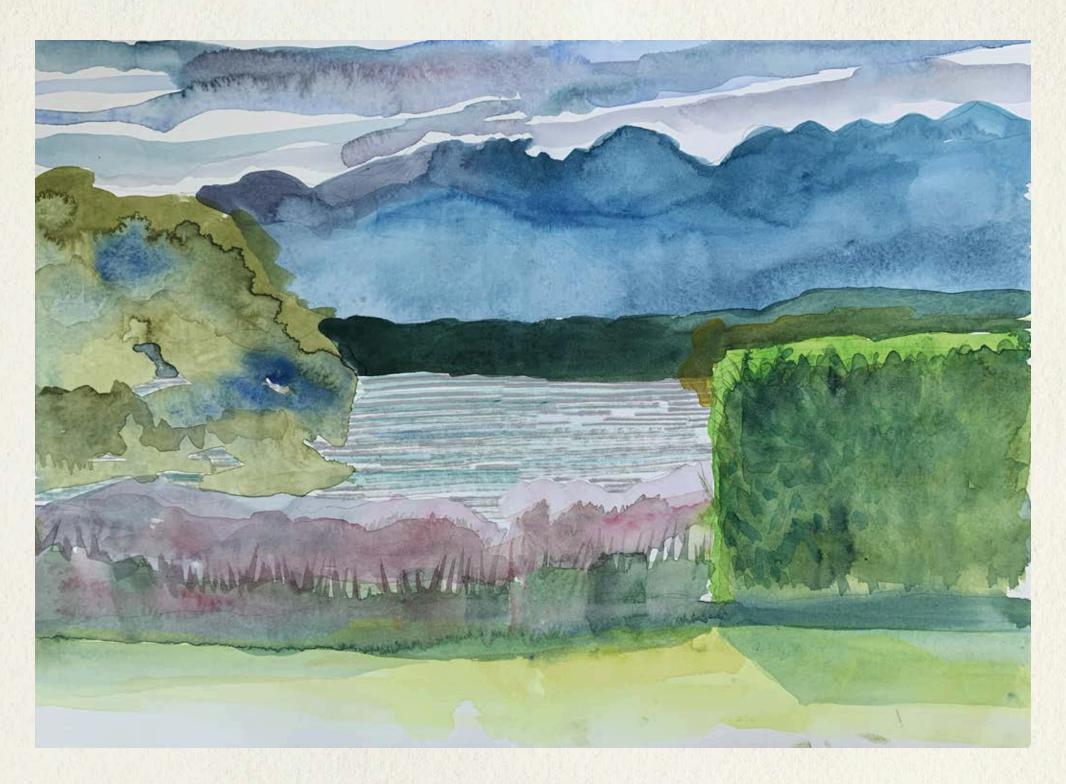














TIRST FELL FOR California as a colle

FIRST FELL FOR California as a college student when I traveled with friends from the Midwest to get jobs by the beach. Having grown up on the East Coast, California was a dream. I loved the sun, fun, landscape and, of course, the magnificent Pacific Ocean.

So it was the fulfillment of a lifetime wish to move to Santa Barbara with my husband and two teenage daughters. Santa Barbara is known for its infinite variety of trees and plants — "The American Rivera" they call it. The organic line quality of this remarkable growth and the ocean with its famous surf offered an endless artistic challenge.

The move nourished all of my artistic aspirations and ultimately inspired me to return to graduate school. Along the way, I attended the University of California at Santa Barbara, which helped me to think more critically about my work. I began to view the process of making art differently.

The casual California lifestyle was very freeing, and I found my work reflected this abstract freedom through line that was both organic and complex. I dropped my New England reserve and adopted more openness. As a consequence both line and color in my work took on new energy, particularly with respect to water imagery.

I didn't have a studio while living there and, this forced me to work outside most of the time. These were memorable art-making days. I've always found that working directly from nature adds a freshness to the subject matter.







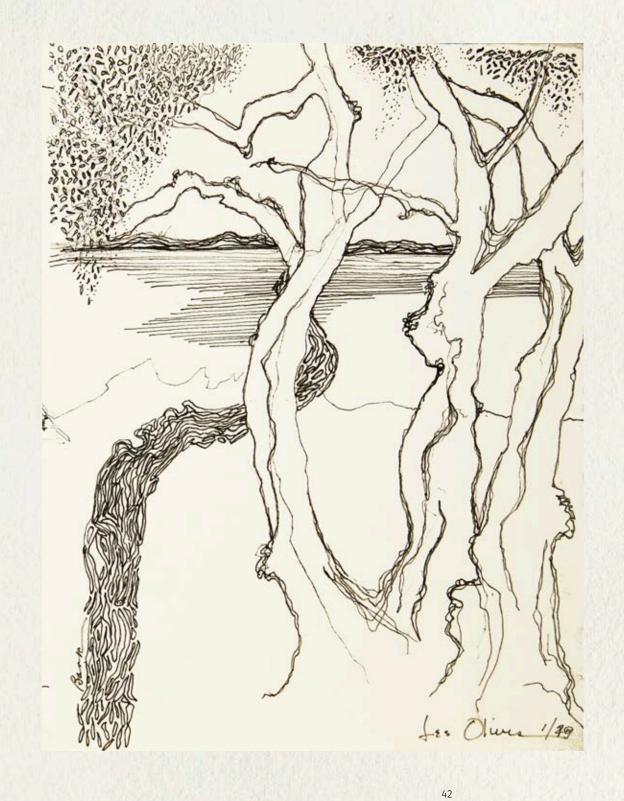












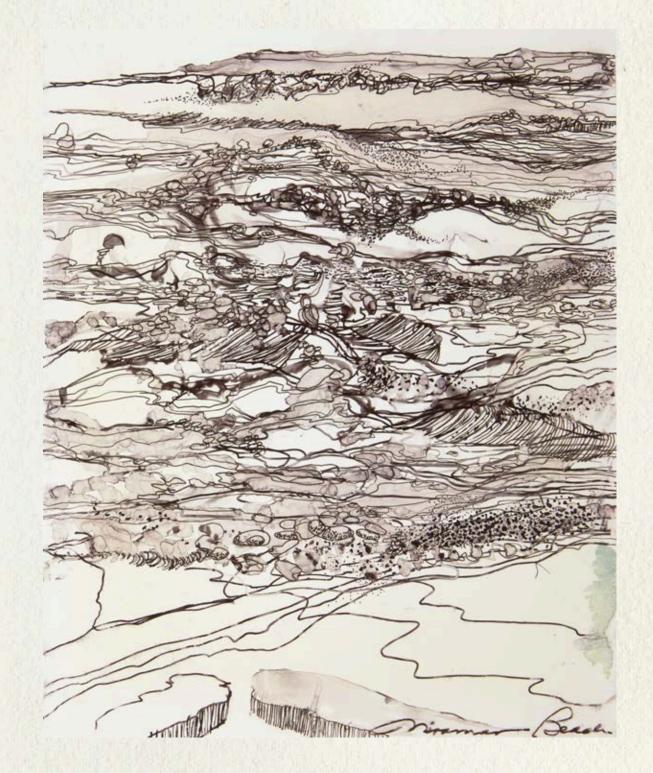
































SPEN, COLORADO IN JANUARY is a winter wonderland. New England winters are beautiful but the mountains of Colorado are an entirely different level of snowy, glacial beauty. My residency at Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, Colorado allowed me to engage with an artist community in an interdisciplinary program in the arts. Highly skilled instructors guided our work but residents designed their own experience. I signed up for the printmaking discipline in the morning and explored other mediums in the afternoon. Printmaking on steel one afternoon in the welding studio was a particularly exciting experience.

Watching skilled professionals (which many of the students and instructors were) lifted my standards to a higher level. There was a lot of valuable sharing which was educational and inspirational. Each day my appreciation of the level of competence became greater. I felt myself stretching in many new directions.

In the early morning before class, I went for long walks or cross-country skied in the gorgeous landscape around Anderson Ranch. The photos that I took were silvery and blue with accents of the pines' deep evergreen — a new palette which I enjoyed transforming into prints. The landscape revealed itself in tree forms, and my drawings reflect this framework. The richness of my experience combined with the natural beauty of the winter landscape has been a lasting inspiration.

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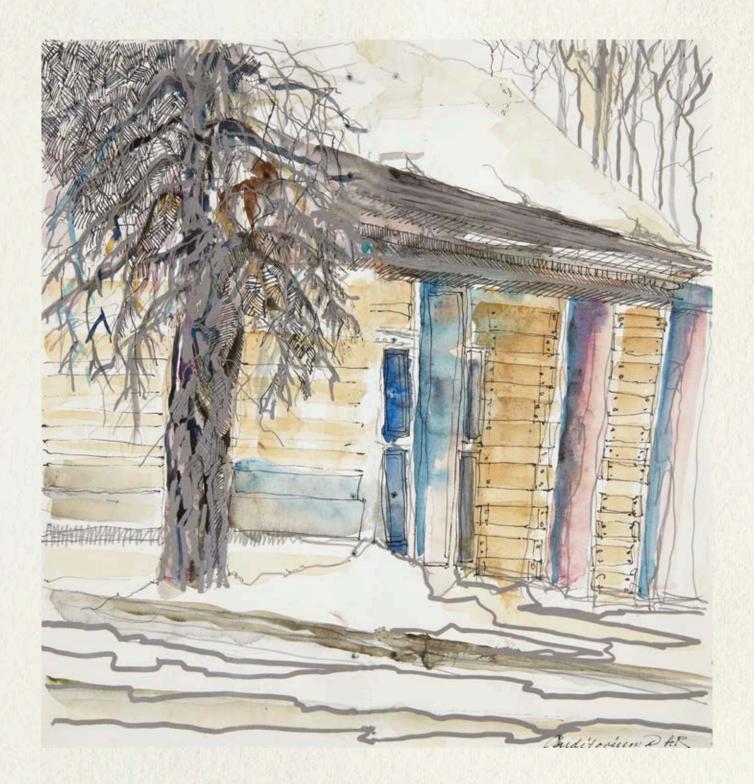
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N 2013 MY BELOVED yoga teacher and I came up with a plan to have a week-long retreat where we would offer both my Illuminated Journal class and her yoga class in Costa Rica together. She was living in Costa Rica at the time. We found a unique resort on Lake Arsenal that was a perfect fit.

This spectacular country offered such variety, lushness and tranquility — all qualities that were instrumental to our purpose. My husband and I had explored the country on a previous visit and had been enthralled with the amazing rain forest region as well as the dramatic coast which had rocks that soar way above the water line. It sent me in search of new materials to

reflect this inspirational new environment. Costa Rica in all its variety has a fierce beauty.

In particular, the birds and plants that were in Costa Rica were extraordinarily colorful and abundant wherever we went. Each day I found myself working on entirely different subject matter. The country has a tropical beauty which is very different from other similar climates that I have loved exploring. The colors were vibrant, the lines complex.

There is a spiritual quality which I felt as soon as I arrived. Life seemed more simple and uncluttered. This country is not just a place but a lifestyle that energizes. People like my dear friend go there on vacation and end up staying forever.



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AINE HAS MORE COASTLINE than any state in America. This offers an artist a variety of water objects — bold rocks, pristine islands, and crashing waves. There is a primordial aspect to the Maine landscape that I've spent many hours trying to capture.

The colors — deep greens, steel blue water, the rainbow color of the granite rocks, the diaphanous hue of seaweed — all express its unique character. The volatile weather contributes another "wild card". Each time I arrive in Maine for the last forty-three summers, I'm stunned by the landscape's purity. The minute I cross over the Maine border, my faith

is renewed in the power of nature and its ability to lift one above any earthly weight.

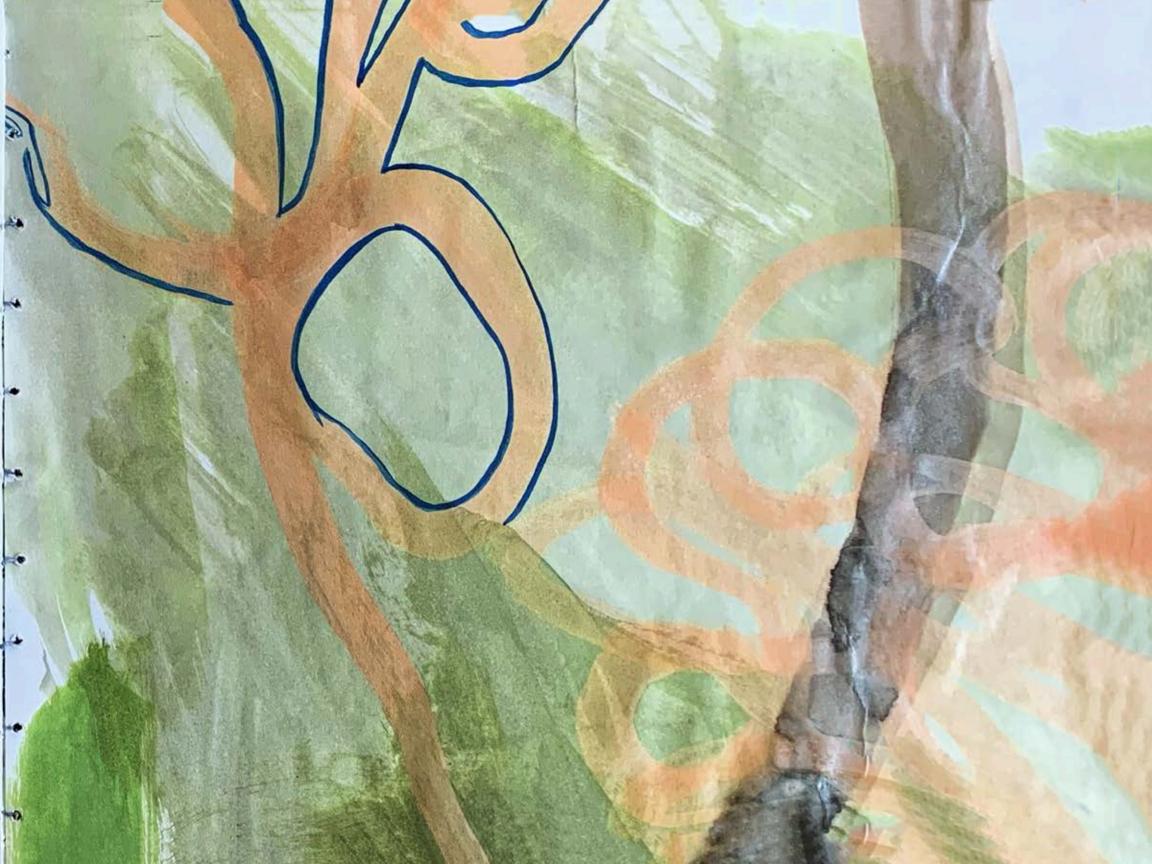
In 2001 I attended a workshop at The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine called "The Illuminated Journal" and taught by two inspired artists, Siri Beckman and Hannah Hinchman. In this course I learned how to create pages for an artist book, and then make it into a volume with handmade covers and Coptic binding. I went back to my students and shared my own version of this experience more than fifty times with students young and old. Watching students learn more about "seeing" has been one of the most satisfying aspects of my artistic practice. Being in Maine is a vacation for my soul.











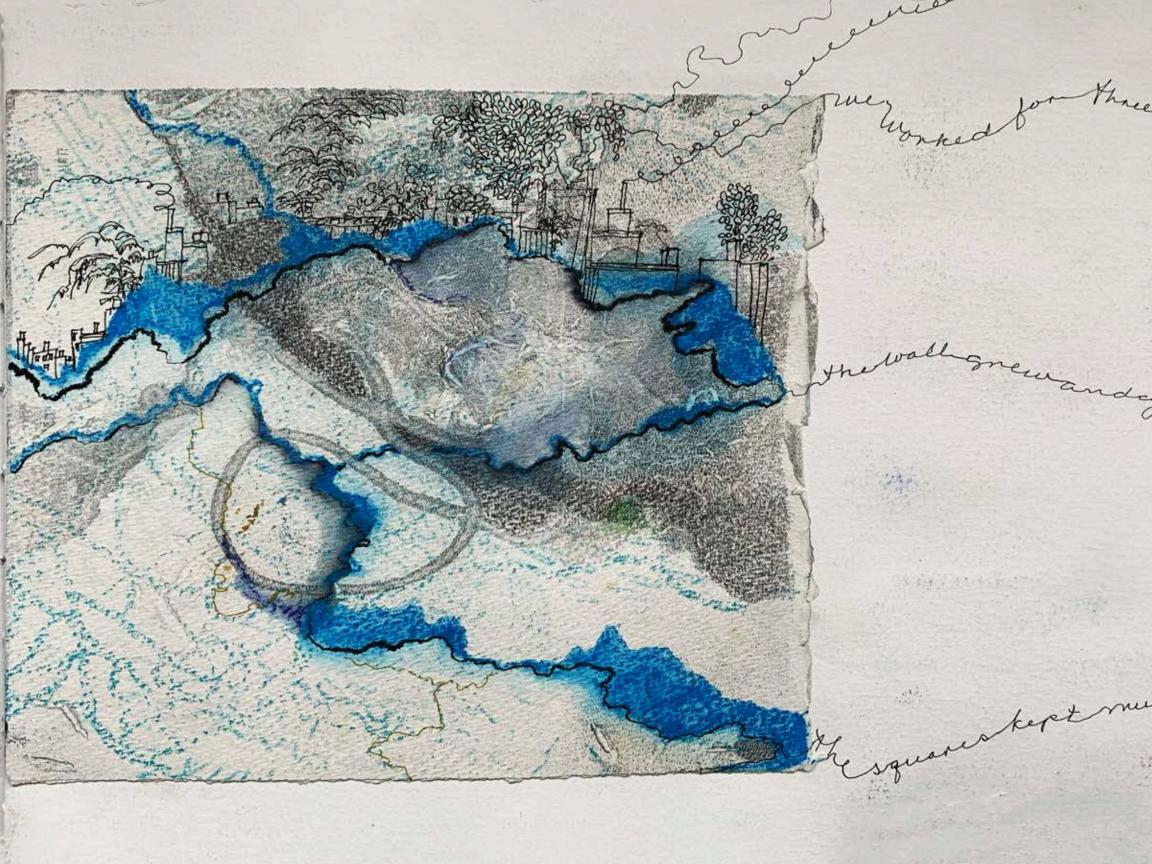


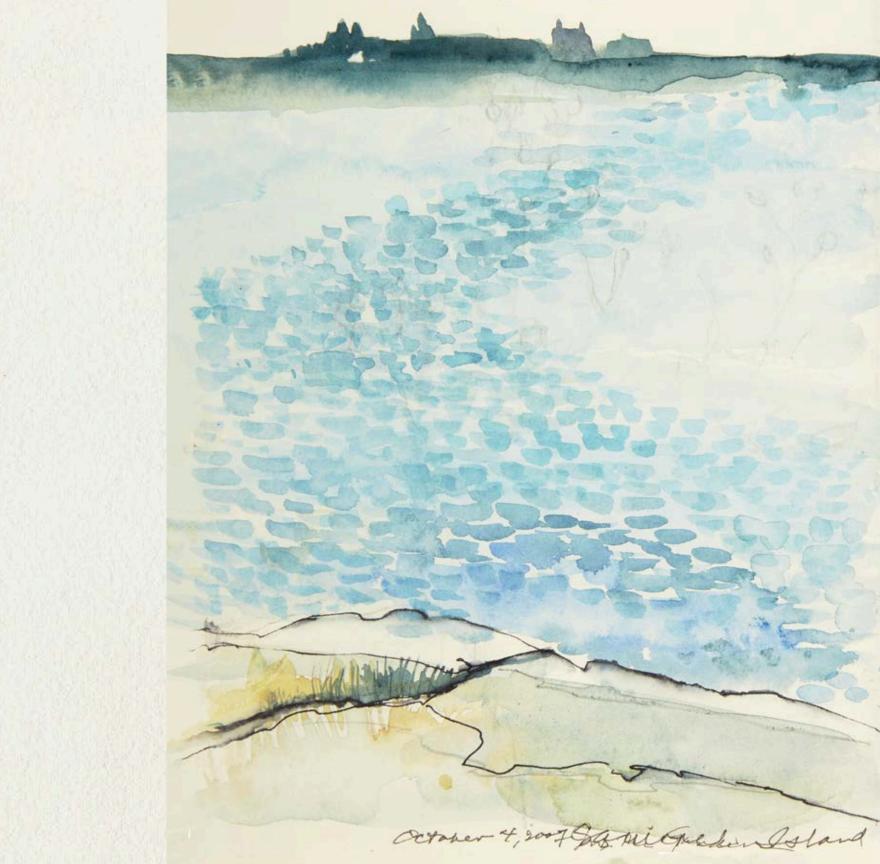












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OW DOES ONE BEGIN to capture the aesthetic of France which pervades every aspect of the country — the food, the architecture, the style, the clothes, the language? Each of these dimensions contributes to an unbelievable whole that has inspired artists for centuries.

We lived as a young family outside of Paris for three years. Never have I been so inspired. Each day offered a lesson in how to do things right.

The palette of France includes blues/grays/subtle pinks, and I found it everywhere from the smallest village to the most elegant quartiers of Paris.

My three residencies through the Virginia Center of the Creative Arts in Auvillar were life-changing. This 12th century village in the southwest was founded by the Romans. I would sit atop a stone wall in the center of town, looking down at the French countryside, completely charmed by the river and rolling countryside. It was one of the most wonderful spots that I've ever experienced. I tried painting other scenes but I always returned to this spot! I wanted to make it my "own", and I hope that I finally captured it. I was also fortunate to attend a residency through the Maryland Institute and College of Art in Rochefort-en-Terre. This chateau in Brittany, France offered an entirely different experience, also with an exquisite view of the countryside.

France, and particularly Paris, are forever in my heart.















October /th - parunday afternoon: This is a puzzle - men exerce are pucces and placely, aver time it comes together. I'm sitting in a sown that comes from the 12 the There have been so many additions over time. I test privileged how many people have sat an this wall & almined This part. a manth ago of rnew so little about Aucellar and now were I in. To me think in terms of totally different vistas? Is me continually push back our boundances

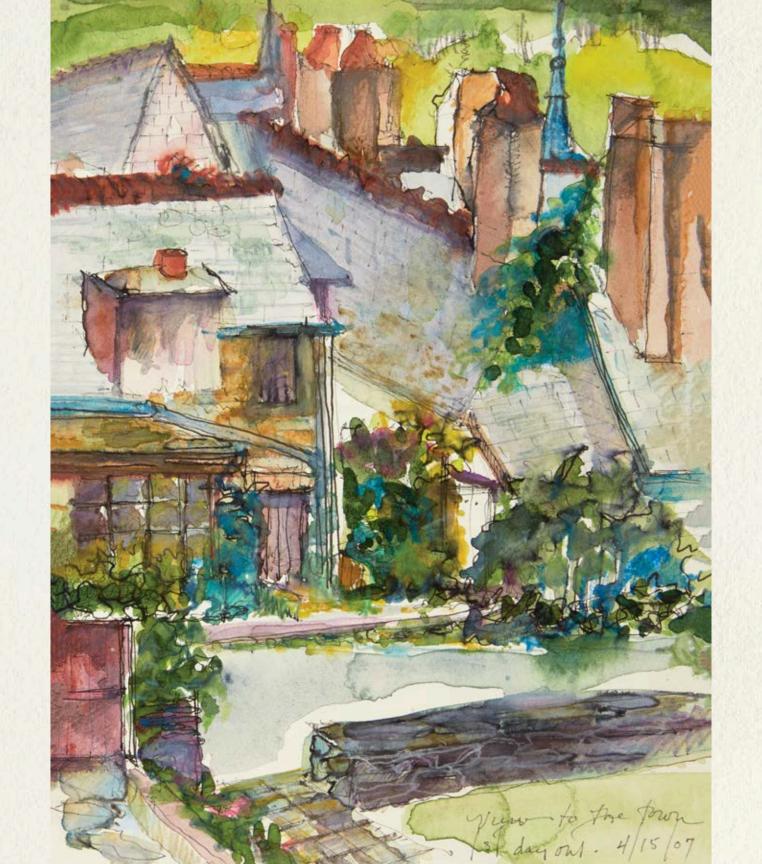


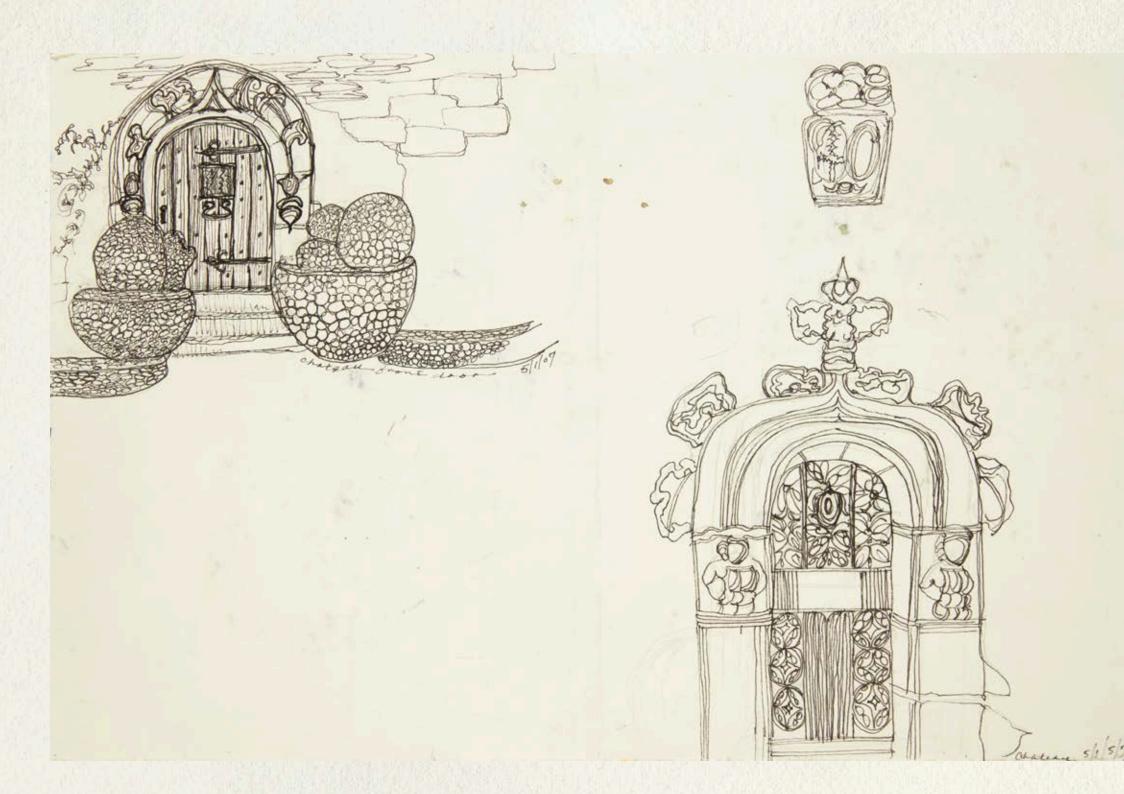






















HERE'S SO MUCH of my trip to Turkey that has stayed with me for years now: the haunting sound of the call to prayer, the exquisite carved calligraphy adorning the architecture, the unique cuisine — to identify, just a few things.

My daughter and I explored the complicated, rich city of Istanbul together. We stayed at a small hotel close to the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque — magnificent sites. The sprawling city was both overwhelming, and at the same time, intimate and friendly. The Bosphorus River divides the Asian and European sides of Istanbul and winds it way through the city center,

lending an ethereal charm. Southern Turkey was spiritually moving in a different way. We visited Ephesus, where early Christianity flourished and the olive trees and the landscape transported us into Biblical times. We felt the impact of this formative history.

I photographed a lot of mark-making that one finds everywhere in Turkey and reproduced it with print transfer techniques when I returned to my studio. It enriched many of my created images. The nature of the individual strokes is organic and graceful and offers unusual intricacy. The reproduction of the patterns in marble also added a new dimension to my work. Turkey is indeed a printmaker's delight.





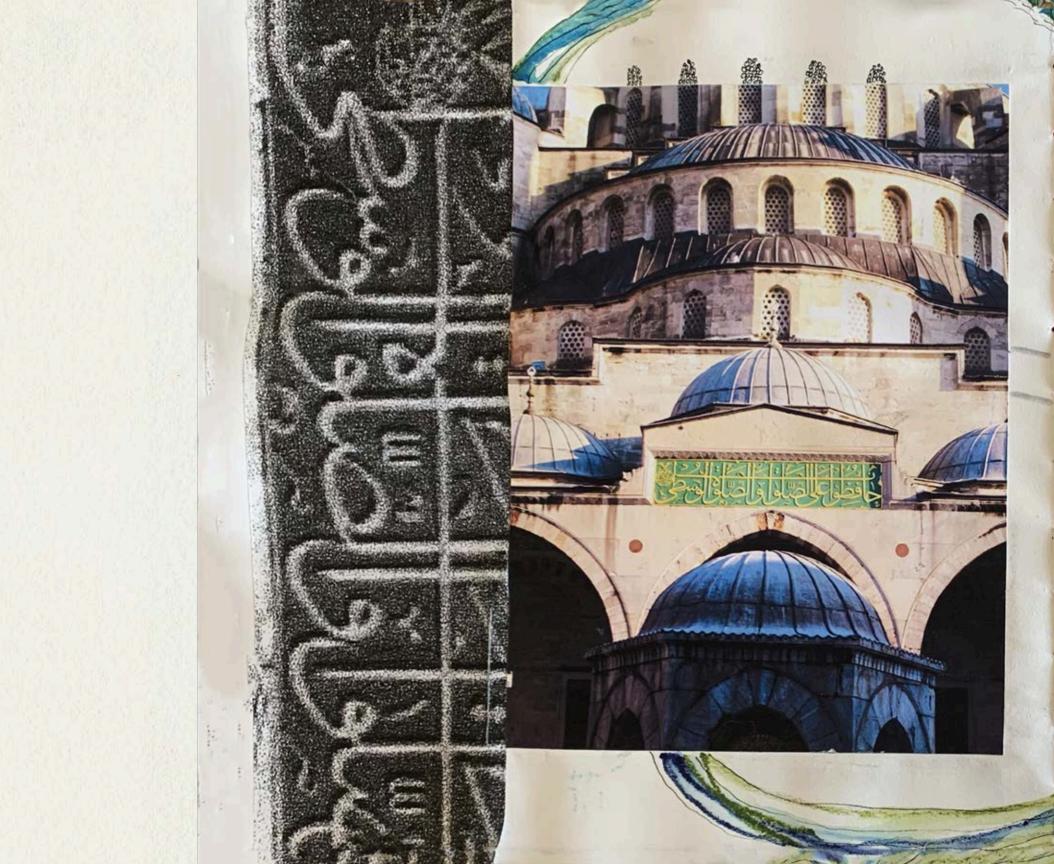




May 1 - We harrived, a bit of the worst for wear, after our 9 hr. flt. i not mough peop either on The plane nor The night begane Shrahim Pasa hotel is Derget - low. Key / well located four Noom a delieges w/ a little ouldoor Terrace / great bath/ Shower per repete. Best is the view from the roof terme which we done - terrific vista of Sea / Blue Mosque / incredible Proof Tops! - we walked a bit in our area (The Sultanhamet) and then had cake & bat lave at a cape ourside Thogia Sophia after a Chord Dep / drink on our terrace / shower, we headed to drinks D the Seven Seas Hotel roof terroce / brantiful sun-Set over Tagia Sophia ) and Then dinner a a fich Crestaurant Balikçi Sabahattin. There were fish fumping in the case (live!) in The forget of The restaurant! Writers all po friendly and very handsome. There is a lot of soliciting to get people to come to shaps/restaurants : ( Many mys) scarries/ jewelry / sottery.) Was to absorp and we are grateful to France been able to arrange to stay a couple of extra days efter changing our plane flt. to Izmir. Mank you, ( numme;" the name of The neceptionist 2) ann hatel!)





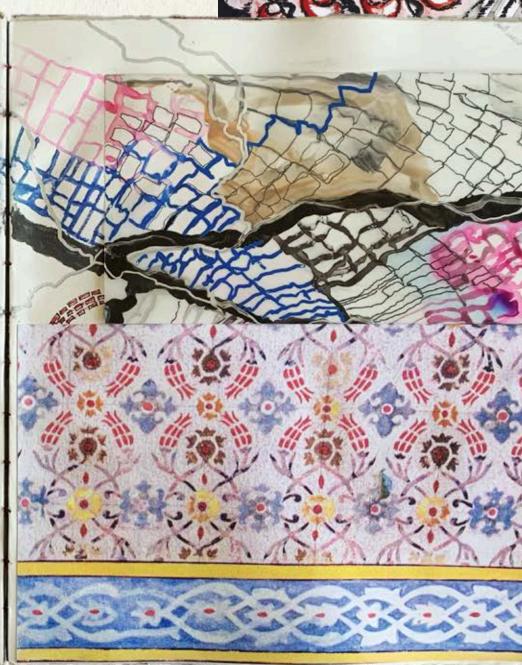








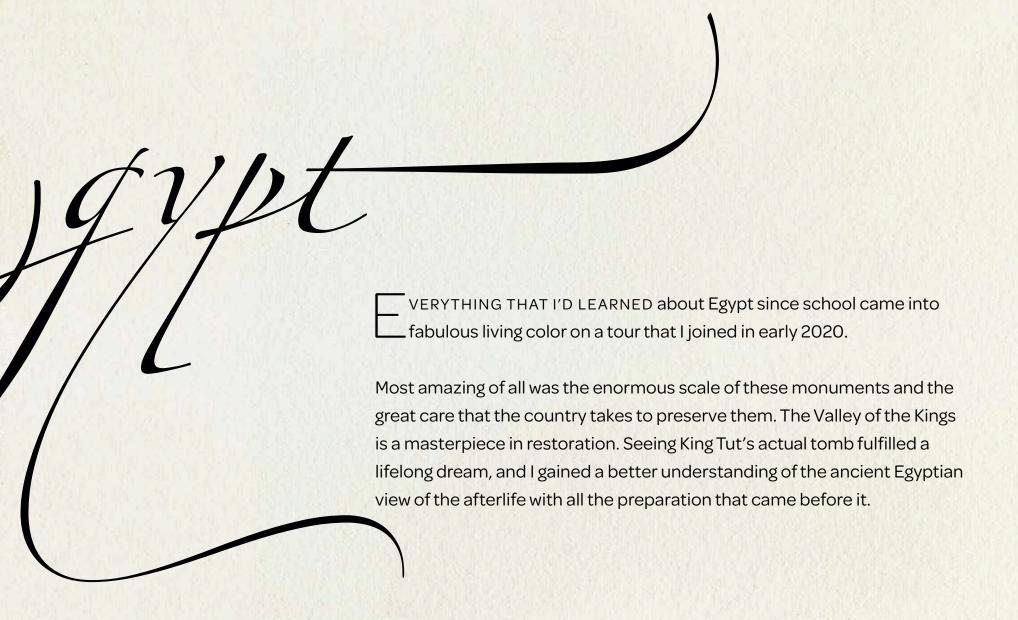








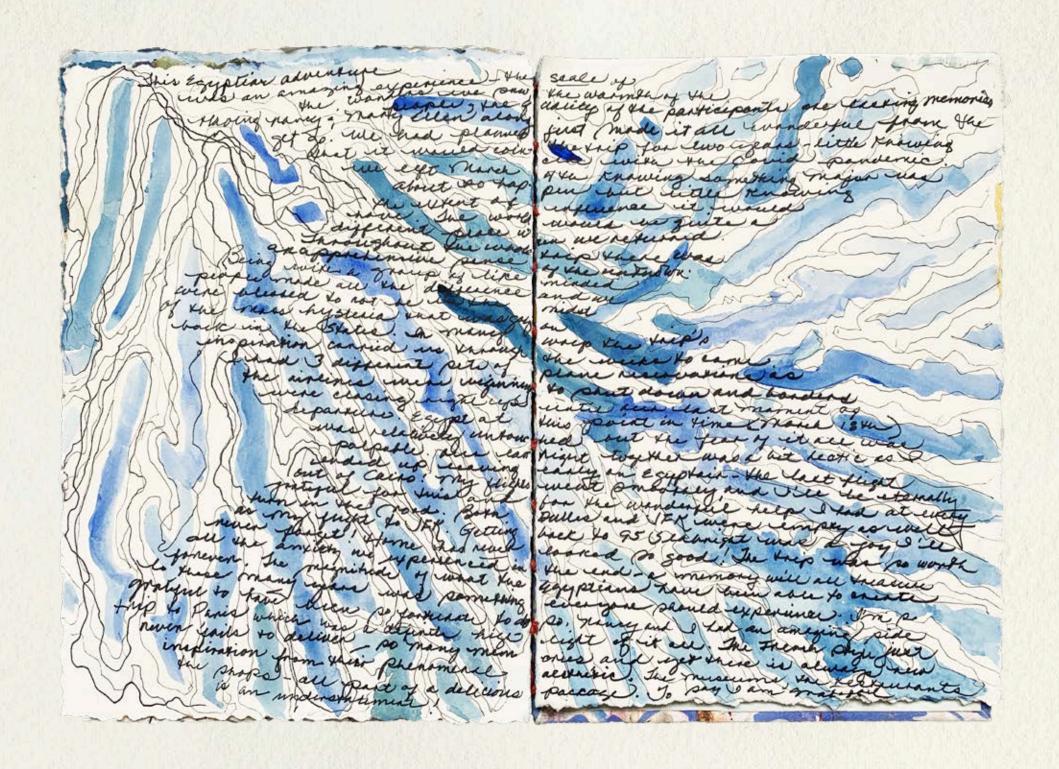


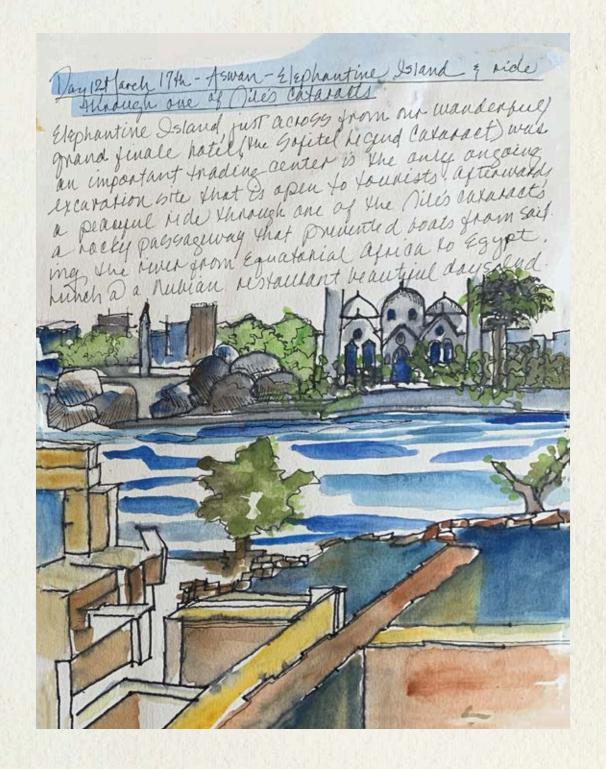


We cruised down the Nile for several days. Lush in many parts with crystal clear water and intriguing temples, we experienced a lovely and peaceful journey through history. This restful voyage with stops to visit meaningful sites afforded a great opportunity to record watercolor "snapshots". I also provided instruction to fellow travelers eager to do the same. It's always satisfying to introduce others to the joys of illuminated journaling.

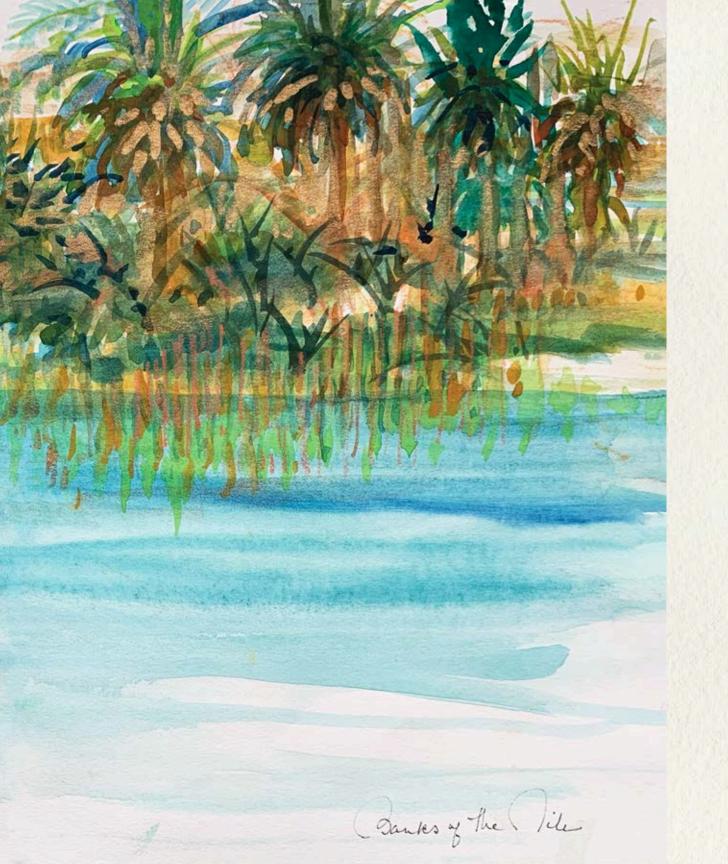
I spent my first weeks of the isolation of the pandemic at home "recreating" the trip in my journal. It was a wonderful way to revisit and reflect on the trip.



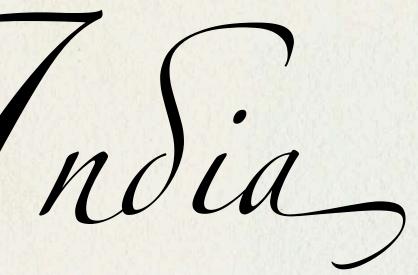












NE OF MY LIFELONG DREAMS had been to travel to India. Its art, food, culture, color palette, music and religions fascinated me. I'm grateful to the artist residency, Sanskriti, in New Delhi for my introduction to the country. Tucked in a park-like setting within the city, it had its own wonderful museums on the grounds. India is not for the faint of heart but approaching it in the context of making art made the passage easier. Indeed, making art is part of India's daily life, and its people seem to bring art to everything they do while holding space for their ancient culture.

Art in India is a meditation.

The spiritual life is central to India. Whenever I met someone, one of the first questions they asked was, "What is your spiritual practice?" My traveling companion and I also went to a spiritual retreat with a guru in the Himalayas outside of Rishikesh. She was extraordinary, and we came away feeling enlightened by her teachings.

Another remarkable layer of experience was a tour of Rajistan and the palaces of the emperors. The fabulous patterns and attention to detail reflect a dual nature — both complex and simplistic. The work that I did after this trip was multi-layered and reflected these two sensibilities. I turned to collage and applied décor gathered in the various markets. The wedding market with its many appliques was a particularly rich resource.



















These beautiful ladies nure on their way to the "Arty" - the evening dervice to honor the close of the day their such a calor extragains. There is maniful quanting at these antigo and sivar mensio Mey happen werey night an many locations on the banks of the sacred Garges.





# About the Artist

USAN GREW UP in Richmond, Virginia. Her father was a painter and her mother an interior designer. They encouraged creativity in many ways – art lessons, museums and cultural events. She left the South for college, earned a BA in studio art at Principia and her MFA at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

For twenty-seven years, she ran her own interior design business, including both commercial and residential design projects. She attended the Post Bac program at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to prepare for an MFA program. While attending the MFA program at Vermont College,

a professor advised Susan when she was feeling "blocked" she should create a small artist book to work out ideas on "a less threatening scale." This was the beginning of a very important part of her practice — creating artist books. A book made for her final graduate show was acquired by The Chicago Art Institute for their Joan Flasch Artists Book Collection.

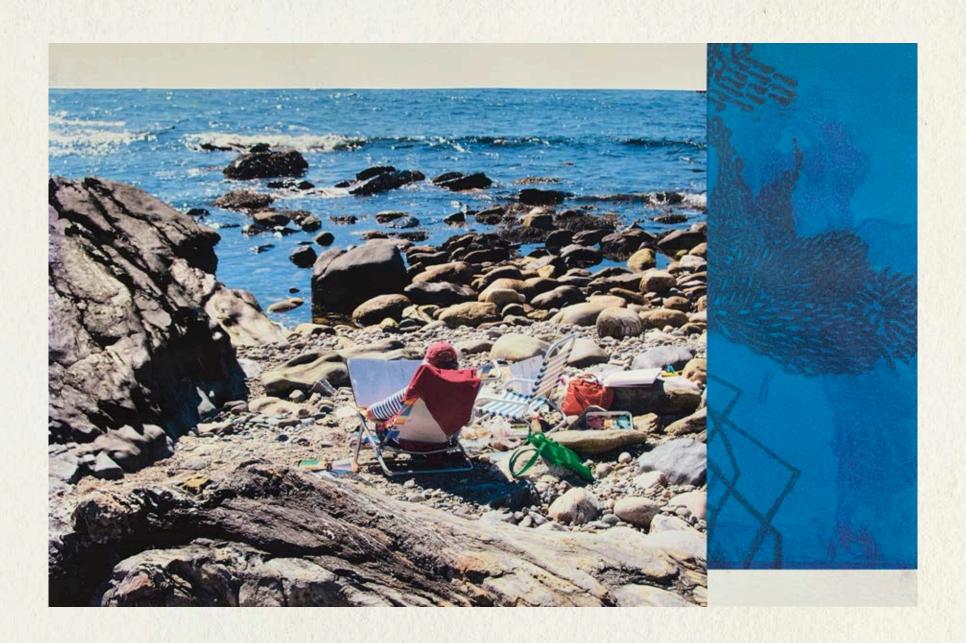
Since graduating she has been a studio artist represented by City Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut and Silvermine, New Canaan, Connecticut where she has participated in numerous group and solo shows. Teaching art is also a rewarding part of her career. She leads workshops in painting, printmaking and bookmaking internationally, at art centers around the country and in her studio.

Susan's practice has also benefited from fellowships and attendance at artist residencies. These include The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts at several sites including Amherst, Virginia and three visits to Auvillar, France.





She has also had residencies in New Zealand — The New Pacific Studio in Masterton — and The Maryland Institute and College of Art's residency at the Chateau Rochefort in Brittany, France. She attended the residencies at The Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont three times as well. In 2022 she will attend a residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Center in Ireland. All of these experiences, in addition to living in Maine, Santa Barbara and Connecticut and traveling widely have afforded rich material. She has created twenty-five journals. This book, *Reveries: Journaling in Place*, includes highlights from these journals to inspire others in their own journaling practice.



# LOCATIONS

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Red Hot Poker (detail): pg. 18
Main house, New Pacific Studio, Masterton, North Island: pg. 21
Map of residency: pg. 22–23
Stump: pg. 24
Back of personal studio building: pg. 25
Morning Daily Studies: pg. 26–27
Back of studio, main building: pg. 28
Red Hot Poker: pg. 29
Lake Tekape: pg. 30–31
Lake near Milford Sound: pg. 33

### CALIFORNIA

Miramar Beach (detail): pg. 34 View from Bella Vista, Santa Barbara: pg. 36–37 Miramar Beach, Santa Barbara: pg. 38-39, 50–51, 54–55 Trees @ Bella Vista: pg. 40–43 Foam studies: pg. 44–49 Padaro Beach: pg. 53–53

#### COLORADO

Winter trees (detail): pg. 56 The Barn/Anderson Ranch, Snowmass Village: pg. 59 Trees: pg. 63–68

#### **COSTA RICA**

Rocky Beach (detail): pg. 68 Rocky Beach: pg. 71, 74–75 Tree: pg. 73, 76–77

## MAINE

Seaweed (detail): pg. 78
Seaweed: pg. 81
Haystack, Deer Isle: pg. 82
Family tree: pg. 83
Painting on dock, East Boothbay: pg. 84–85
Painting in backyard: pg. 85–86
Ocean Point: pg. 88–89
The coast: pg. 91–92
Island: pg. 92–93

Mushroom/Seaweed: pg. 94–97 Front yard: pg. 98 Botanical gardens: pg. 99 Process: pg. 100–101

#### FRANCE

Juliet's tree (detail): pg. 102
Baladin: pg. 105
Juliet's House: pg. 106–107
View from wall of Auvillar: pg. 108–109, 112–113
Chateau, Rochefort en Terre, Brittany: pg. 110–111
Château front yard: pg. 114–115
Village of Rochefort: pg. 117
Château front doors: pg. 118
Madame Klotz's desk: pg. 119
House next door, Auvillar: pg. 120–121

#### TURKEY

Blue Mosque (detail): pg. 122 Marble: pg. 125 Porch, Ephesus: pg. 127 Blue Mosque, Istanbul: pg. 128 Personal studio: pg. 130 Column detail: pg. 131 Turkish patterning: pg. 132–137

## **EGYPT**

The Nile Voyage (detail): pg. 138 Elephantine Island, Aswan: pg. 143 Nile: pg. 141, 144–145

#### INDIA

The Ganges (detail): pg. 146
Indian patterning: pg. 149
Offering on the Ganges: pg. 150
Memories from Sanskriti Residency, New Delhi: pg. 151
Wedding Museum graffiti, Residency: pg. 152–153
Henna patterns / Burning of bodies, Varanasi: pg. 154
Traditional Dress: pg. 156–157

# COLOPHON

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Who has a brilliant eye, endless successful ideas, and indefatigable enthusiasm

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My photographer of many years who has endless patience with me

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"The attempt to capture the extraordinary wonder of a place enlarges the spirit."

- SUSAN NEWBOLD, AUTHOR AND ARTIST

The dictionary definition of *reverie* is a state of being pleasantly lost in one's thoughts. This book *Reveries:*Journaling in Place is the result of careful editing of Susan Newbold's twenty-five artist journals containing images which were an attempt to capture her reveries which she wanted to share. These images come from international and national locales where the author has lived or traveled, and each have unique qualities. Newbold teaches a course called "The Illuminated Journal" — a workshop which combines painting, printmaking, drawing and writing and ends in a handmade journal which the students each create. The practice of journaling has been an important part of her artmaking which she is eager to share with the readers of this book.



