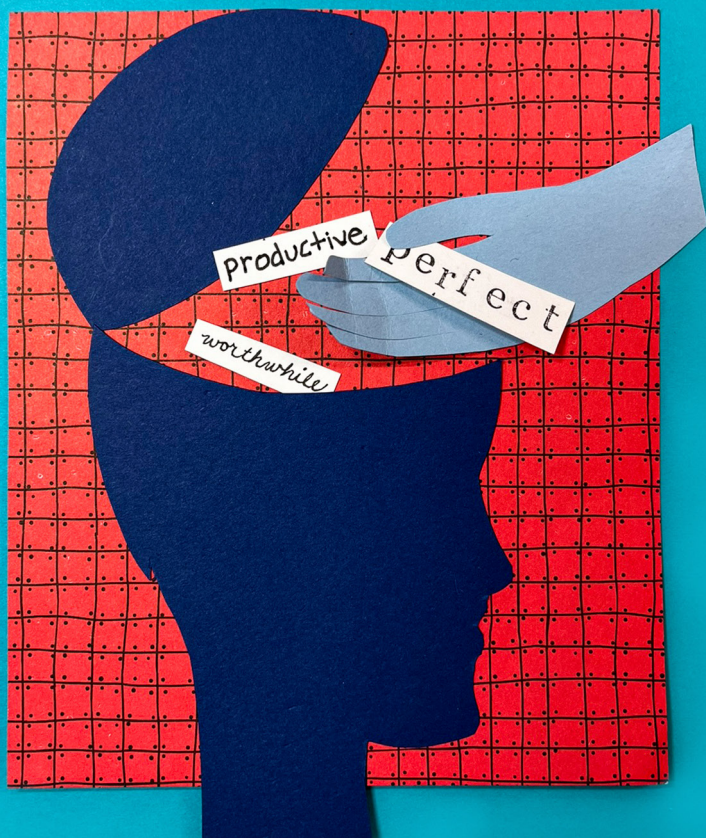


Realmscapes Dispatch

1 September 2026

Making Room

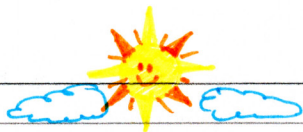


Annette Zimmerman

August

The Footnote

September



Dear Friends,

August was hot and muggy here, without even a hint of autumn. Nevertheless, the new school season began on schedule, and while many of my neighbors were cleaning out backpacks and work desks for the new school year, I was making room in other ways.

I began with setting the book aside for a month — not abandoning it, but so I could give art my undivided attention. The decision worked. I grew as an artist, rediscovered the joy of sketching, and became more productive than I'd been in months.

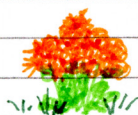
Oddly, part of that work came from making room for things that didn't need to become a product. A ballpoint pen and a cheap sketchbook helped me let go of the expectation that everything I made had to be worthwhile. I tend to forget that a lot. But this month I made room for imperfection, failed first attempts, experimentation, and my own viewpoint. Enjoyment blossomed.

I also loosened assumptions: that choosing art means neglecting writing, that serious creative work must produce something finished, or that I must choose between writer and illustrator, hobbyist and artist.

When I was younger, I saw my future as full of possibilities. Now it's the present that's full of them.

May September bring you room for whatever is waiting to grow.

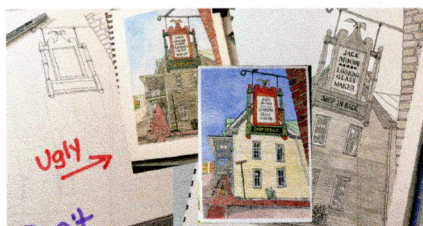
Anni



Recent Adventures

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood...

I miss Mr. Rogers... an essay about the kind of world Fred Rogers made for me.



Don't stop Believing

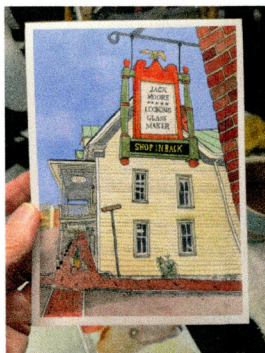
Better

The Painting That Wanted to be Made...
a post about using failure to figure out what the art really is about.
Also written for Patreon with a focus on the process.

What does it mean to be an artist?
Finding joy again through a cheap sketchbook and a pen.



Finished Artwork



Jack Moore's Sign



The X450

is this really art?

The Quest

Adventure
caller

THE CALL TO ADVENTURE

In July, the Jonesborough Emporium (aka the Visitor Center where I sell my work) reminded its vendors that it was a place for locally made work connected to Jonesborough and East Tennessee.

The email made me reconsider the things I had been making, not because they weren't connected to the area, but because I wanted to do better. I didn't want to make things that I thought people would like; I wanted to create art showing how I felt about Jonesborough and see if other people felt the same way.

My quest was simple: make prints that captured both the stories the town's buildings told, and those I imagined hiding beneath the surface.

Wow that's tiny print!

SETTING OUT

Every quest begins by leaving home so I went for a walk.

It was too hot and humid for plain air painting, but not for wandering with my camera. I followed familiar streets while searching for unfamiliar views. Odd angles. Details that made me ask questions.

The Jack Moore sign called to me first. It reminded me of something from Alice in Wonderland. As I developed the drawing, another story appeared: a boy waiting with his luggage at the Eureka Inn. With a cat.

The red caboose at the Chucky Depot had a different mystery. Someone else was missing. The Caboose Man!

TRIALS ALONG THE WAY

? Each painting required hundreds of small decisions. My first attempt failed. I had to reconsider my methodology and try again. ?

My mantra became "finished is better than perfect". I kept repeating it. Then they were finished. And their imperfections are what make them perfect.

YES

RETURNING WITH THE TREASURE

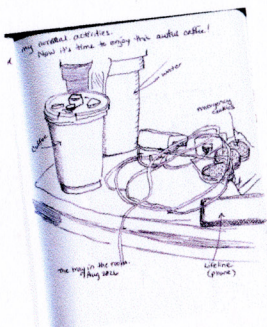


The treasure wasn't merely 2 finished prints. It was discovering the kind of artwork I want to continue making. Familiar places transformed by observation, memory, and imagination.

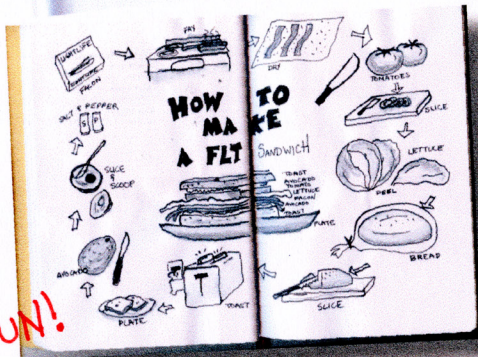
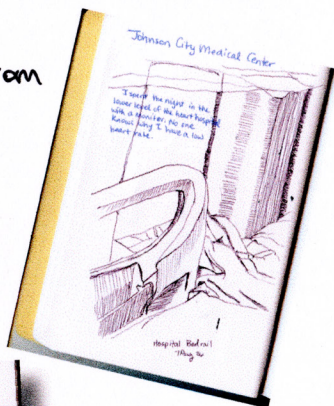
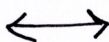
I hope someone will want to take a print home. But it's all right if they don't. I found what I was looking for and I plan to set out on this particular quest again.



Lessons from the Road



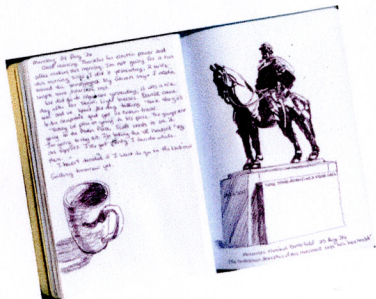
sketching from
the
hospital
bed



A "Draw With Me"
session with
Danny Gregory



sketching whatever
is in front of
me at the
time →



Sketching while on
my camping trip

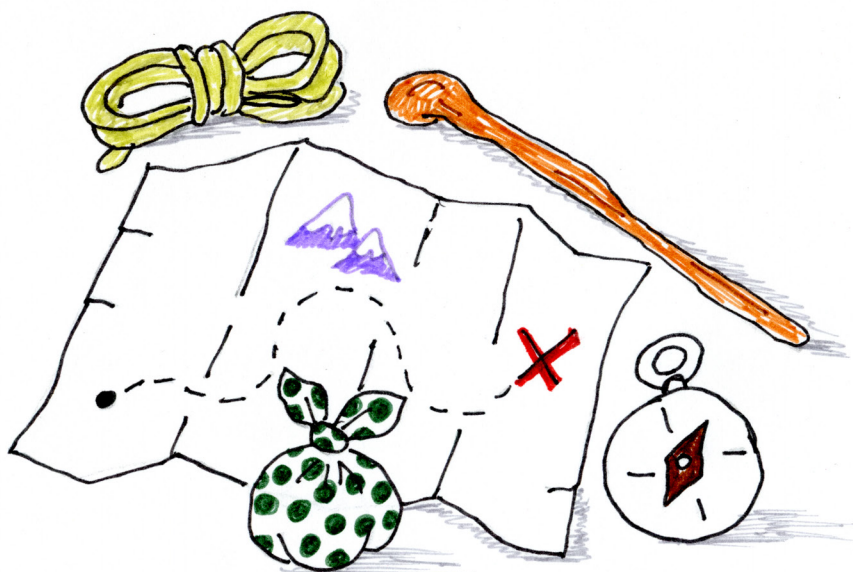


The Quest Ahead

In September I plan on bringing back writing without asking art to leave. Goals:

- Return to A Key for a Broken Song
- Work on some storytelling stickers
- Continue producing Jonesborough story prints

→ Continue having fun in my sketchbook



links

Realmscapes:

<https://realmscapes.world>

← My World 😊

The blog: (All my posts in one place!) 💜

<https://realmscapes.world/rants-and-ramblings-blog/>

I Miss Mr. Rogers:

<https://realmscapes.world/i-miss-mr-rogers/>

The Painting that Wanted to be Made:

<https://realmscapes.world/the-painting-that-wanted-to-be-made/>

What does it mean to be an artist?:

<https://realmscapes.world/what-does-it-mean-to-be-an-artist/>

Patreon: → Go here for more artsy talk

<https://www.patreon.com/cw/annettezimmerman>

Danny Gregory's Draw With Me playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL71uFZ_dc-aYhFtQMZfcv8zCvKl1H_k9P

! So fun!

Koosje Koené's Patreon: [https://www.patreon.com/cw/](https://www.patreon.com/cw/koosjekoene)

[koosjekoene](https://www.patreon.com/cw/koosjekoene)

OMG
← check these guys out!

Instagram: @annette.zimmerman.artist

Thank you

Thanks for reading!



much appreciated