

Bottlebrush Gallery & Center for the Arts presents:

artist of the month:



September Feature: Sally Rung

New Castle, PA

Mediums: Mixed media, Acrylics, Fibers



How long have you been making art?

When I was little, I begged my mother to draw stick figures for me. She never understood why I loved them so much or what I saw in them. So, my answer is: as long as I can remember!

Where do you find your inspiration?

I discovered, almost from the beginning, that inspiration can be found anywhere, at any time. Places, people, and experiences can all create inspiration to be captured in artistic form. At one point, I took time off to take flying lessons, which were not only educational, but inspirational. I

believe everyone has talent and a style of their own. Give it a chance, see where it takes you.

My art is usually spontaneous, which is *everything*, and accounts for the variety. When inspiration comes, I go with it for as long as it lasts: a week, a month, or longer. I seldom tackle a project I am not excited about.

How has your art changed over time?

In the past, I enjoyed traditional paintings, like vases of flowers or outdoor scenes. Then I attended a class taught by Harry Hickman. The group went to a church cemetery to paint a scene. He offered a positive comment when I added features of my own and encouraged me to paint even less realistic, less like a photograph. This freed me to experiment more!



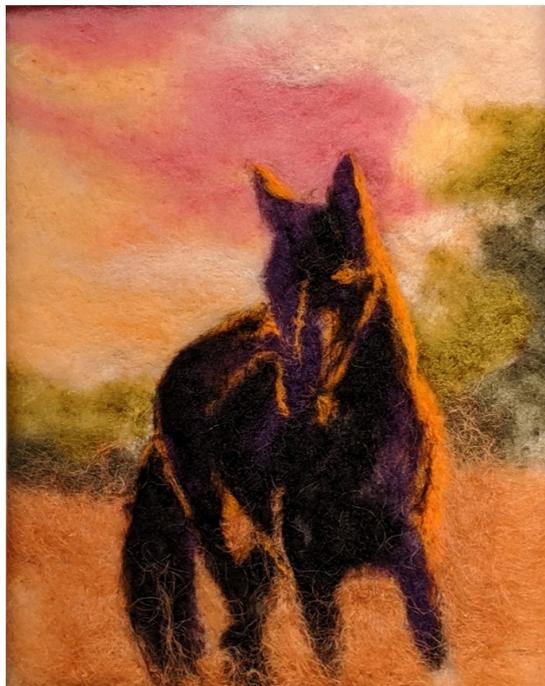
Tell us about your studio and/or workspace.

Don't ask! It's our family joke. The whole house is my studio but it's centered in the kitchen on my dining table, which is completely covered in art supplies, artwork, and essentials.

What advice would you give to your younger artist self?

I am grateful that my mother believed in my abilities long before I did. She was determined that I get an education, preferably in art. I never thought I

could be an artist, even after attending the Pittsburgh Art Institute. At graduation, the instructor even said: Miss Downing, when you came here, you didn't know how to pick up a pencil!" He meant it as a compliment, I think! So, I would tell my younger self to stick with it.



What advice do you have for someone who wants to create art but feels discouraged or unmotivated?

Early on, while trying to paint a still life, I was getting nowhere. I became frustrated, and at that point, with no hope and no fresh ideas, I gave up. I usually just scrape the paint off and start again, but for some reason, I picked up a brush, dipped it in black paint, and sketched an outline around everything in the picture. The next morning, I saw the work in a new light. That painting won 2nd place in two shows!

“ *[...] beauty is in the eye of the beholder, or in this case, the judges, who saw something I didn't. The painting still hangs in my living room to remind me that everyone has the ability and desire to create. Never give up!* ”

— Sally Rung

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