

The Write Place At the Write Time

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Artists Featured in this Issue

Patti Dietrick

I am a photographer with a very large collection of images. I still use film. I love the sounds and mechanics of using a camera and the wonderful results of the negatives.

I used to tell my students that working in a darkroom brought instant gratification as the chemical swirled around the paper giving rise to a latent image that clarified more and more as it developed...revealing detail and contrast and textural richness until you decided when to pull it. Today, instant gratification comes digitally with smart phones. Beautiful images are being created all over the world at the same moment.

To me, photography celebrates the intricacy and complexity in nature...portraits can be ethereal and dreamlike or sharp, cool and detached—with hidden meanings. I use symbolism to give a magical quality to a piece or character often blending natural elements with human form...a magical realism.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/pattidietrick/>

Claire Perkins



Claire Perkins is an evolving artist who works in mixed media, collage and digital photo manipulation. As a Transformational Arts Coach, she guides her clients in using art and journaling to tune in to the voice of the heart in order to live more authentically, heal emotionally and physically, and evolve to their highest potential.

<http://claireperkins.com>



Thea Maia

I have a BFA and MFA from the University of Washington

I have been medically disabled with migraines since 2002.

In June of 2014, my husband gave me a new bamboo paper sketch book. This gift led me back to real world drawing for the first time in about 7 years. Since June I have used up over 9 sketchbooks and have done over 300 portrait drawings and illustrations. I started with my favorite comfort media—graphite.

With encouragement, I picked up my first color pencils since 1985. My husband gave me a set of PrismaColor Art Pens for Christmas 2014. With these tools I have been creating drawings out of my imagination. I have been working only from life and from photos for almost 30 years. This is an exciting new direction for my art to take and I am thrilled!

<http://themaia.com/>



C. Michelle Olson

A published author, poet, and photographer, writing and photography have always been passions of mine.

San Diego is a place that has left a beautiful imprint in my heart. I love to capture all the mystical wonder of a city that reflects love and happiness by the marvelous surroundings. My writing is then inspired by the simple beauty of a photograph.

Publications including *The Write Place At the Write Time* and *Everything Coronado* regularly feature my photography. The Rancho San Diego Library has hosted events featuring regional artists in both January and April of this year that have included my work. I have also donated art for auction to support animal advocacy causes in the community.

As a professional photographer, I am always updating myself on the latest photographic information and techniques, keeping myself well-educated to offer cutting-edge photography to my clients.

<http://www.cmichelleolson.com/Home.html>



Art On Interview Page

John Bramblitt (from website)

John Bramblitt is an artist living in Denton, Texas. His art has been sold in over twenty countries and he has appeared internationally in print, TV and radio. He has appeared on *CBS Evening News with Katie Couric*, ABC, and BBC Radio, and he's been featured in *The New York Times* and *Psychology Today*. He's the subject of the award winning documentary shorts

"Line of Sight" and "Bramblitt." His work has received much recognition including the 'Most Inspirational Video of 2008' from YouTube and three Presidential Service Awards for his innovative art workshops. And John is blind.

Mr. Bramblitt is also the author of the award winning book, *Shouting in the Dark*, and is the current selectee for the Texas Governor's Disability Employment Awareness poster. He currently works as a consultant for museums in developing programs that are designed to include everyone—no matter their ability or disability. *Shouting in the Dark* is the story of Bramblitt's life, his journey navigating through this new territory of blindness, and how he ultimately rekindles his joy, passion, and relationships through art.

Prior to his blindness, John studied at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, where he graduated with honors. When Bramblitt lost the last of his vision 13 years ago due to complications with epilepsy, his hopes of becoming a creative writing teacher were shattered and he sunk into a deep depression. He felt disconnected from family and friends, alienated and alone. But then something amazing happened—he discovered painting.

He learned to distinguish between different colored paints by feeling their textures with his fingers. He taught himself how to paint using raised lines to help him find his way around the canvas, and through something called haptic visualization, which enables him to "see" his subjects through touch. He now paints amazingly lifelike portraits of people he's never seen—including his wife and son.

While art was always a major part of John's life it was not until he lost his sight



in 2001 that he began to paint, and it was then that he says, "Art reshaped my life." John's paintings are intensely personal, and are mostly taken from real people and events in his life. John's workshops are unique in the art world in that they not only span the gap between beginning and professional artists, but also include adaptive techniques for people with disabilities. According to John, "Everyone has an artist somewhere in them; sometimes they just need a little help letting it out."

<http://bramblitt.myshopify.com/>

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