



**VICTORIA B COOLEY**  
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February 2023 Art News & Updates

## Turn Back Time

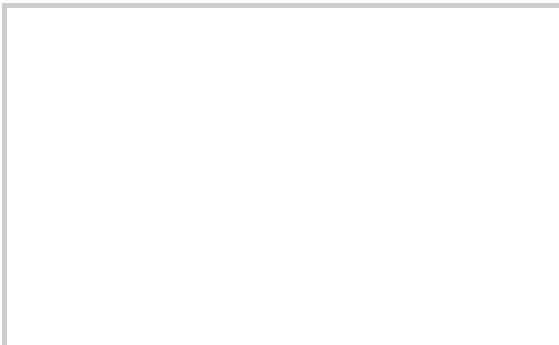
Whenever I look back in time, I realize that life is not just a series of stages, but more like many lives within a life. We all have ways of marking time and remembering different segments of life, whether it's a job we had, a town we lived in or a book we read. For me, I can look at the artwork I've done and remember what I felt at the time and can reflect on my experiences in that phase of my life. At the risk of embarrassing myself, I'm going to turn back time and share some of my older work that reminds me of specific events in my life.

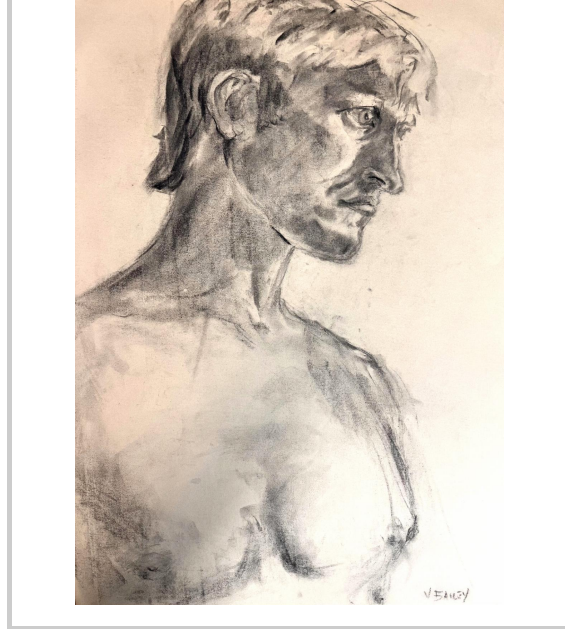
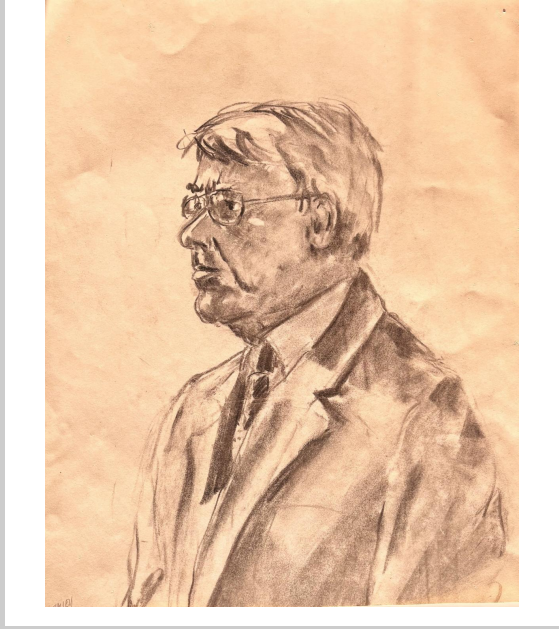
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**1976** - I spent a lot of time playing with my Dad's paints when I was in my early teens and this is the result of my first time with watercolors. I remember him telling me to fade the trees in the background to give an illusion of depth. Those were the closest moments with my father.





**1982:** When I was in art school, I especially liked figure drawing with charcoal. These are quick studies I did in my first year and I started feeling more confident. I was surrounded by so much talent and I remember feeling overwhelmed but also driven to prove myself.



**1985:** During my last year of college, I primarily used pencil and loved detailing fabrics and textures. This piece is 5' wide and took me over a month to draw. I won "Best of Ringling" for this and I remember feeling rewarded for my hard work. I also look at this piece and remember that I was excited about getting married!



**1988** - These are 4 pieces from the late '80s. I was busy starting a family but still kept my hand in the art world. I painted mostly detailed watercolors of lace, wicker, and intricate textures and also bold oil paintings of Nantucket scenery. I had yearly exhibits in Nantucket galleries and would often bring the whole family as part of the adventure!



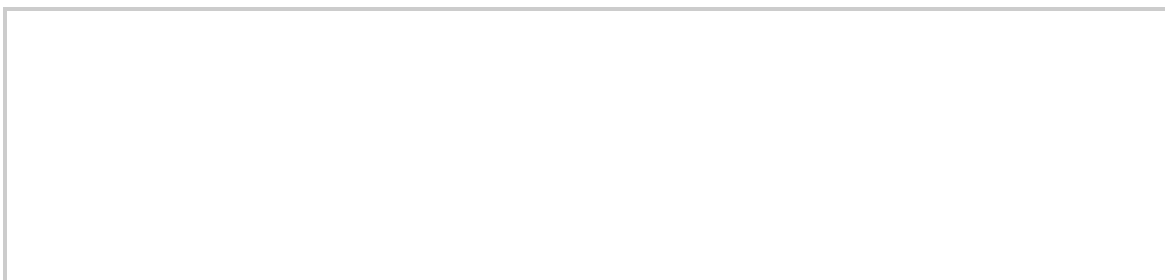
**1995** - With 3 young children under my wing, I barely had time to paint but I started a mural business once my youngest began kindergarten. I felt so free! I was able to get out of the house for a bit, make my own hours, and create all kinds of different scenery on commission.



Two more murals from the '90s: "Joe's Diner" was painted on a bathroom wall in a very eclectic home and "Window to Paradise" was a St. Petersburg condo that was being staged for resale.



**Early 2000s** - My kids were teenagers by this time and they kept me very busy. I went back to painting oils of Nantucket scenery and would exhibit there in the summer. I had a nice relationship with a gallery there as well as Palm Beach and New York. It was a time of anticipation for what was ahead for my kids and also trying to redefine my own life.





2015 - I'll wrap this up with my Aprons piece. I painted this watercolor when my 3 children left home and it was time for me to "hang up my aprons". I made the expansive water behind the aprons to represent the unknown territory that we were all facing. I decided to use watercolor for this because it is a delicate medium that reflected exactly how I felt at the time. Thank you for strolling down memory lane with me!

**Featured Paintings- "Hello!" and "Hello Again!"  
15" x 30" each on canvas**



After my husband retired, he decided to



This is a companion piece to "Hello" and I

start a vegetable garden in our back yard. He's always had a knack for growing things so I had no doubt that this would be a successful venture. One morning, I went out to see if there was any progress, and right there in the middle of the green bean plants was this spectacular sunflower that we had never planted. It was as if Mother Nature was sending a big "hello" greeting. I spent a solid hour staring at the perfection of this flower and I remember feeling in awe that it was so perfect and that it had become this way almost overnight. Some of the best things in life pop up out of nowhere when you least expect them!

painted it because sunflowers deserve a second look. They have the most intricate pattern in the center seed section. It's an amazing design that I could study for hours. They are also the happiest of flowers and a wonderful way for Mother Nature to say "Hello" again and again!

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## More Artwork

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**"Summer Breeze"**  
11" x 14" acrylic on gesso board



**"Cup of Petunias"**  
5" x 7" acrylic on gesso board

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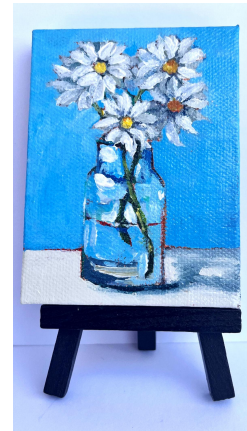
## New Mini Canvases



**"Hammock Time"**  
3" x 4"

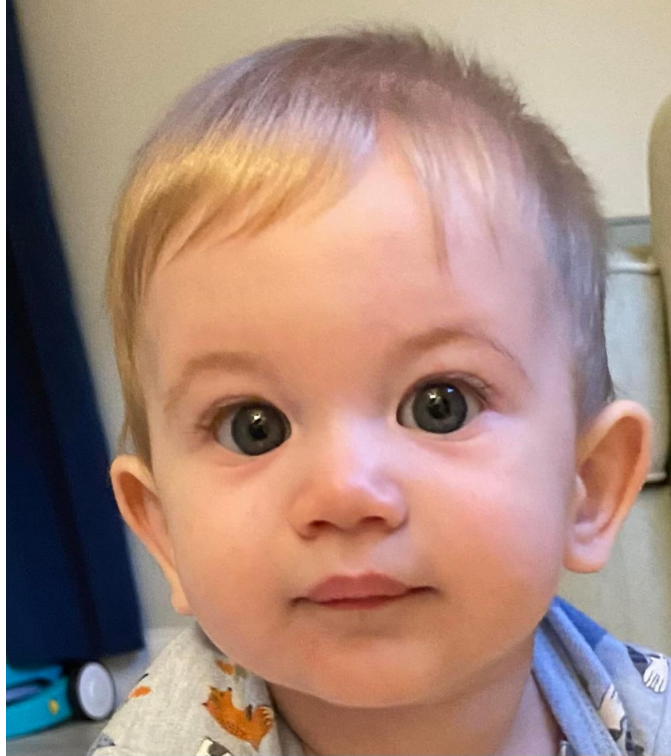


**"Shoreside"**  
3" x 4"



**"Jar of Daisies"**  
3" x 4"

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The greatest masterpiece - 6 month old Colton

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## Upcoming Shows

**January 28th & 29th**

St Armands Circle Art Festival

**February 4th & 5th**

Mount Dora Art Festival

**February 11th & 12th**

Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts

**February 18th & 19th**

Coconut Point Art Festival

**February 25th & 26th**

Longboat Key Festival of the Arts

**March 4th & 5th**

Downtown Venice Arts Festival

**March 11th & 12th**

Lakewood Ranch Arts Festival





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