

Gratitude

Alan Capps WSNC

Watercolor on 140lb Saunders Waterford Cold Press Paper



While eating breakfast one morning during the pandemic I noticed how the light was playing off of the condiment tray onto our table top. The bright red color and the shadows accented the generous tip left by the previous customer. I imagined the gratitude shown by the customer and the statement that a generous tip would make for that waitress or waiter who decided to take a risk and come to work that day. The image was one of those aha moments that spoke to me and said “paint me”.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many industries in different ways. The hospitality industry, in particular, has been one of the hardest hit. With the closure of restaurants and bars due to lockdowns and restrictions, many workers in the industry have been forced to look for alternative sources of income. However, there are some who have continued to work through the pandemic, showing an incredible amount of dedication and perseverance. Among these are the waiters and waitresses who have continued to serve their customers despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Waiters and waitresses have always been the backbone of the hospitality industry.

They are the front-line workers who interact with customers on a daily basis, ensuring that they have an enjoyable dining experience. However, when the pandemic hit, the job of waiters and waitresses became even more challenging. The closure of restaurants and bars meant that many of them were without work. Those who were lucky enough to still have a job had to adapt to a new way of working. One of the most significant changes that waiters and waitresses had to deal with was the implementation of new health and safety protocols. They had to ensure that customers followed social distancing guidelines, wore masks, and sanitized their hands. In addition, many restaurants and bars introduced contactless ordering and payment systems to minimize contact between staff and customers. Despite these challenges, many waiters and waitresses continued to work through the pandemic. They did so not only because they needed the income, but also because they were dedicated to their jobs and to serving their customers. Many of them were also aware of the importance of the hospitality industry to the economy, and the role that they played in keeping it going. The dedication of these workers did not go unnoticed. Customers who continued to dine out during the pandemic often expressed their gratitude to waiters and waitresses for their hard work and dedication. Some even left generous tips as a way of showing their appreciation.