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First Newsletter and a Big Thanks

I hope that cooler weather is finding you, Happy Fall. Thank you for even opening my email and taking the time to read through it. I won't try to pretend that I have anything terribly exciting or profound to report. This newsletter is just my attempt to shorten the distance between myself, my studio, and you...

Acceptance into Two Major Art Organizations: NAWA and PSA



This year, I am proud to announce, I was accepted into the **National Association of Women Artists (NAWA)**. Each year, They accept members through

a juried process. (You submit a small portfolio, artist statement, and website-then a panel of fellow artists decide your fate.)

This is an extremely active and prestigious organization. Based in New York City, it was established in 1889 as a way to bring artistic representation for women into the field (remember women were often excluded from the salons and art exhibitions that men monopolized). Famous members include Louis Nevelson, Faith Ringgold, Judy Chicago, Marry Cassatt, and Cecilia Beaux to name a few.

For the New Members Exhibition in November, I will be taking Mel my friend and a work from my Military Spouse Project (pictured on the right). More details in the next newsletter!

cont

I was also accepted into the **Pastel Society of America (PSA)**. This organization promotes pastels and their unique characteristics. I often see pastels as the underdog of the artworld. However, I can't tell you how much I enjoy working with them.



Above- All Our Finery 2: Survivors from the Storm Surge, Pastel on sanded paper, 18" x 24."



-The Marvelous Ms Mel, Oil on Panel, 11" x 14"



Vanessa Osmon
@vjosmon
ARTIST

Vanessa Osmon is an artist, military spouse, mother, runner, and swimmer. She currently lives with her husband in West Point, NY.

You can find her art work at vjosmon.com or on Instagram @vjosmon

She finds herself lucky enough to make art while surrounded by a loving family and wonderful friends.

NEWSLETTER

STATIONS ARE FOR COMING AND GOING

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134 NAWA Annual Exhibition

This year I had work in several shows. Most exciting was the opportunity to show a piece in New York City through NAWA. I chose to show one of my "Disrupted Military Spouse Portraits" at NAWA's 134 Annual Exhibition. While the piece was too large for a physical appearance, it was the first time they had digital submissions displayed in the gallery. *Maker's Hands* was chosen. I find it fitting as it was one of my first works in the series.



Maker's Hands, 32" x 32". Pastel, charcoal, spray paint, and oil on Arches Oil Paper

The Process (Explained)

If you spend time around any artist, read any art reviews, or visit a gallery, you will probably hear the term "process." It's one of the jargon words that goes hand-in-hand with art. Basically it is the "how" an artist makes a piece of art. Each artist creates using a different combination of tools, materials, and application methods. In art schools we are taught the basic best processes for using these materials. However, what starts to make an artist unique, or many people like the term "style," is when an artist creates a process that uses materials slightly differently to express their concept, ideas, thoughts, or vision.

A process can be amazing, interesting, and complex. Or it can be very simple and straight forward. Whichever it may be, spending time trying to understand an artist's process will really help you understand the artwork. Combined with the artist's statement, the work itself, and the process you should be able to better picture of their intent.

PROCESS (Explained) cont



Stations are for Coming and Going, WIP, "41" x 39." Pastel, charcoal, spray paint, and oil on Arches Oil Paper

This all leads to "what is my process?" I mention it in my statement. you can find it on on my website here:

<https://www.vjosmon.com/portfolio/disrupted-military-spouse-portraits->

One of the things I talk about is that my process reflects the life of military spouses. (*That is what the work is about.*) Military spouses are uprooted every several years, often 2-3 but sometimes shorter. This repeated over a span of 20-30 years can be a daunting experience. *Find a military spouse, talk to them.*

In my work, I will often start a composition, I will render it, then I will paint over it and start again. I paint/ draw loosely, leaving previous layers visible. I don't want to lose the under parts completely. They become abstract hints at what came before, almost like memories or ghosts. *Although, I tend to think they represent the mental state of many military spouses.*

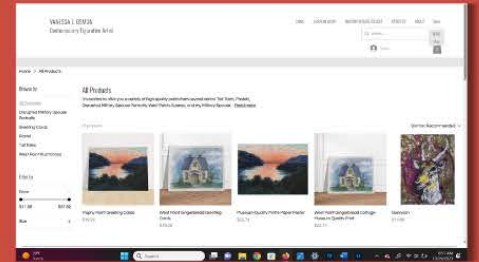
I use many materials. However, I apply them as I do a pastel, layers upon layers, usually darkest first. I apply my materials in a very staccato fashion or I apply them indirectly. Oil paints are the last materials to grace the surface.

It all becomes a dance because as these layers build up, they start to take on a presence of their own. I start to respond to the marks. On one hand, this is figurative work, on the other it becomes a call to and cultivation of marks- something almost abstract...

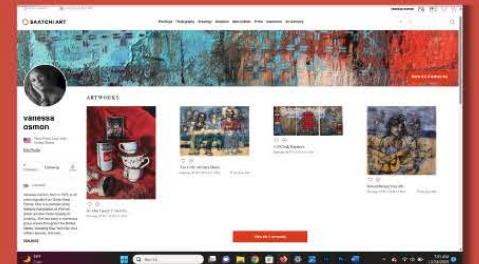
This dance is very much like the life of a military spouse: you make the best of what you are given, reacting and responding to create something unique.

ART AVAILABLE:

Currently, I have two venues that my art is available on: my [website](https://www.vjosmon.com), and on [Saatchi Art](https://www.saatchiart.com).



[Vjosmon.com](https://www.vjosmon.com)



Saatchi Art

Both sites offer prints, while my website is offering greeting cards. (*Additionally, my West Point illustrations will only be offered on my website*). More artwork will be continually added.

Dates:

[NAWA New Members Exhibition](https://www.nawa.org)

Salmagundi Rockwell Gallery

47 5th Ave. New York, NY

Nov 6- 10th

Online Nov 6th - 10, 2023