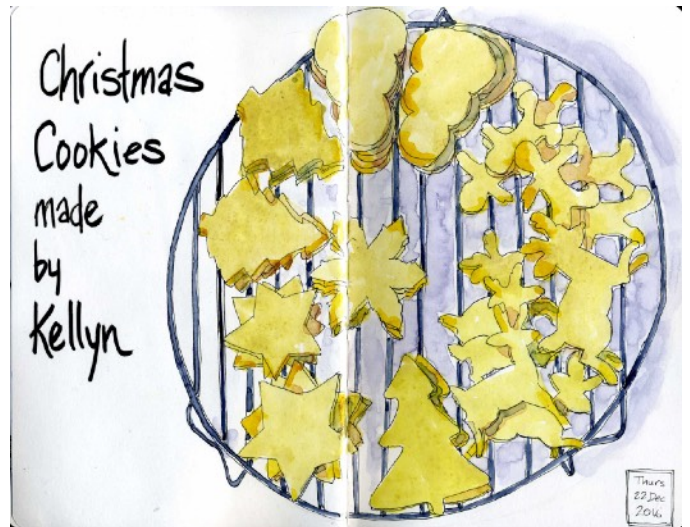


Anya Toomre Art & Illustration Newsletter

The Holidays are upon us!

American Thanksgiving is over and the sparkly lights season is upon us. While I'm not a big fan of the drop in temperature and lack of sun here in the Pacific Northwest, I do like all the decorations that get put up and the festivities. I also rather enjoy the Christmas cookies that start appearing that need to be tried and tasted and maybe drawn.



What's Been Happening...



Workshops and Teaching

I started officially teaching workshops at Cloud 9 Art School in Bothell, WA in September. What a great environment to have classes in! My students have been great and their enthusiasm for the subjects has added great energy to the classes. Seeing their work has been pretty inspiring too!

My first workshop was on travel journaling with ink and watercolor. The journal is created a trip using the photos and ephemera that were taken and collected along the way. It's not a fast process but it's a satisfying one. Drawing a trip really makes the memories clearer and stronger.

The second workshop started in October and was called, *Playing with Your Food in a Sketchbook*. That has been enormous fun to do and the students have done great work. I love meeting each week and seeing what they chose to draw between classes.

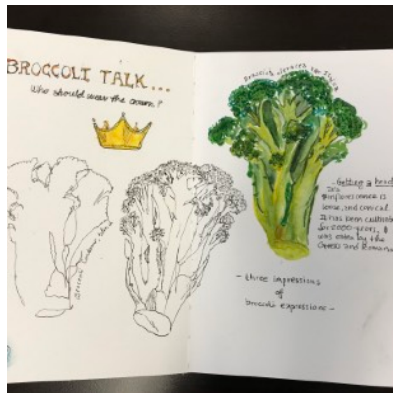
There are so many possibilities for things to draw. The class touched upon drawing fresh fruits and vegetables, drinks, packaging, groupings and displays of food, recipes and then finally documenting



Molly Q., Tomatillos

a meal. Besides needing to eat to live, and the enjoyment that can be had with food, there are a lot of memories and associations with people, food and meals. Choosing to draw a particular item can just be for a

technical challenge but it can also be personally and emotionally satisfying to record a memory or association with a kind of food or meal.



Hilary B., Broccoli



Hilary B., Collection of Tins

Solo Show at the Redmond Senior Center Gallery

My show of Cuban drawings and autumn leaves finished up recently at the Redmond Senior Center (RSC) Gallery. This was the first time I've ever had any work on exhibit so that was memorable and exciting for me. The Cuba drawings were lined up along one long corridor wall and on a different smaller wall was a nice grouping of my autumn leaves. I spent a morning at the RSC at a Meet-the-Artist event and I brought some of my sketchbooks to show where the prints had come from and what they looked like mixed in with other sketches. Sketchbooks are great ice breakers and conversation starters.



Holiday Fairs

I have rekindled my sewing and quilting passion over the past 6 months or so and have been playing a lot with my fabric stash. I've focused on making quilted bags and a variety of coasters piecing scrap fabrics together. Everything I sew is unique and is better seen in person than in pictures, so I starting working at craft fairs and holiday bazaars to show them. The fairs are still new territory for me and I am searching out and exploring different ones as I find them and fit into my schedule. I've done a couple since the last newsletter. One was the My Friends & More Holiday Bazaar up in Bothell. It's a craft fair that has been happening for over 19 years so it was interesting to see that in action. The organizers were paired up with



Reading with Rover, so there were a lot of dogs in training who were brought around training to ignore all the distractions. They were very cute and were getting a lot of treats!

At that fair, I was able to send my version of the Fox and Hummingbird to a new home. I made that in an Eileen Sorg workshop. She is an amazing artist and comes up with such interesting combinations of animals and objects. She teaches two or three times a year at Cloud 9. Sign up early if you're interested.

I also was at the Redmond Holiday Market today. I thought it would be

fun to do something in my own community and be connected with the bigger Holiday Lights Celebration that Redmond hosts annually. The market has been happening for the past 20 years. There was a lot of traffic and and people with twinkly lights. Very fun! I was pleasantly surprised how many people were interested in art classes and to see their enthusiasm to draw and paint more. Yay, Art!

Coming Up

More Workshops Start in January

The next opportunity to take my *Creating a Travel Journal with Ink and Watercolor* 6-week workshop will be Monday evenings starting January 7th. *Playing with Your Food in a Sketchbook* will be Wednesday mornings for 6 weeks starting on January 9th.

And to extend some of the concepts in both of those classes, I will offer *Drawing and Sketching Maps* and *Drawing and Illustrating Recipes* 6-week workshops in March. The workshops will all be at Cloud 9 Art School in Bothell. Check out my website for more information and to register.



Urban Sketching Workshops Starting in Redmond

After the new year, I will be teaching a new series of monthly Urban Sketching workshops through the City of Redmond Parks and Recreation. They will start in January and go through April. I'm excited to see what happens with these classes.



Sketchbooks on Display at the Redmond Library

For the month of February, I will have various of my sketchbooks and artwork on display at the Redmond Branch of the King County Library. Stop by and take a look.

Regular Offerings and Shop

My artwork, textile and prints, can be found on my [website](#), or by contacting me for special orders.

[AnyaToomreStudios](#) is my new shop on Etsy, the site for makers. That's where you will be able to find my coasters, quilted bags and cards.

[anyatoomre](#) is my shop at Society6 that features products with my designs on them.

I continue to offer ink and watercolor pet portraits. I work from your photographs and the turnaround is typically 2-3 weeks from when the portrait is booked on my calendar. More information is at my [website](#).



If you've seen any of my things from postings online on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) or from my [website](#) and are interested in a print, please contact me - anyatoomre@yahoo.com. I'd love to work with you and create something that works for you.

Enjoy the winter and the change in seasons. I have images and tiles from Portugal that I will be focusing on and have some new items to test out to use with my pieced fabrics. My scrap pile does not seem to be going down though!

Thank you to all of you who have been encouraging and supporting me so far in this journey to be a full-time artist and running my own business. It's an adventure I've been enjoying even though it's challenging. Please feel free to share this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested or have them go to my web site to sign up for my email list. I try to send out a newsletter every few months. Earlier issues are available on my website on my [About page](#). The next will come out on March 1, 2019.

Keep creating and enjoy the moments of beauty you come across.

Anya

[Anya Toomre Art & Illustration \(www.anyatoomre.com\)](http://www.anyatoomre.com)

anyatoomre@yahoo.com

I give 5% from my card and print sales to the [Hispanic Federation](#) to help Puerto Rico's recovery from Hurricane Maria in 2017, and 5% from pet portraits goes to the [Seattle Humane Society](#).