



ESTHER HORNIK

ARTIST STATEMENT

For many years, I have participated in afternoon workshops at The Philadelphia Sketch Club. Fortunately, with my move to the City, I can walk to the Sketch Club where I have a locker to store my materials. This workshop experience has provided me with an opportunity to capture nude or clothed models who are located on a platform several feet away from me once or twice a week. I try to depict their different personalities using soft pastels on sanded paper or other media on occasion.

The Sketch Club sessions are held in a large studio space filled with natural light and special artifacts that have been there for years. The walls of the studio are often filled with art from various exhibits so there is an opportunity to be exposed to the work of others while working on your own piece. This process of creating a character study of a model on paper also allows me to focus on something other than doing housework or doom scrolling on my phone. I find that my engagement with the model gives me a spiritual lift in that I can look hard at another person and think about his or her life experience rather than my own. It is very difficult to capture what makes that person unique as no two people are ever exact duplicates.

These workshop sessions allow me to study the model in a community atmosphere surrounded by others engaged in the same activity. Many workshop participants have been attending these workshops for years so their presence is very familiar. Others with whom I have shared the space are now deceased. In addition, many well known Philadelphia artists have painted in this space since the early 20th century. Their ghosts together with their easels continue to inhabit the space together with the living participants.