Gary's Story

One afternoon, several years ago, I went with a friend to Rancho Linda Vista in Oro Valley. The Ranch has been home to so many artists – including Andy Rush, founder of The Drawing Studio.

"The Drawing Studio bought the former Ted's Country Store!" Andy said.

"That's the best news I've heard all year!" I replied.

The news meant that The Drawing Studio would be a part of the Country Glenn Neighborhood, where I live. In fact, the whole neighborhood was enthusiastic about the prospect of a new business moving in. Even better, it was a nonprofit bringing art to midtown Tucson.

In the years since then, The Drawing Studio has become an integral part of Country Glenn, even hosting neighborhood association meetings. It's a place to meet, work, and align community needs.

Personally, The Drawing Studio's relocation created an opportunity for me to return to my art practice after many years. I've taken a number of classes, including Drawing Fundamentals 1, 2 and 3, travel sketch, watercolor, calligraphy, and more.

I thought I was taking "art" classes, then realized there's a lot more going on. The Drawing Studio isn't only about making something pretty, or becoming an Artist with a capital "A." There is a key to finding the artist within each of us and it doesn't happen by magic: it takes sustained practice and work toward figuring out what you want to express.

My art practice today? I'm muddling along. Sometimes I feel my skills are improving, and other times I get a little discouraged – like everybody. But I can see progress. I think that's part of hanging in there.

If you're on the fence about registering for a class, I encourage you to jump in. Check out the classes beginning in November and see if there's one for you.

Know that this is such a welcoming place. No one at The Drawing Studio would ever say, "You'll never be an artist! Why are you here?"

Everyone can be an artist!

Gary Bachman
Member, The Drawing Studio

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