

Art Inspires Connection

Lorr is an artist and teacher who has been engaged in the practice of art her entire life. She first came to The Drawing Studio 23 years ago, drawn by the availability of open studio with a live model. "I found it a great resource for my preparation of figurative painting, which I was doing at the time." What she found was that the practice of art was greatly enhanced by the community she felt at The Drawing Studio, where "we were all mature, all artists and peers."

Over the years, Lorr has found connection through art over and over, as an artist and as a facilitator (a word she prefers to "teacher.") She has had shows in New York, Chicago, and LA. One of her best stories of finding connection through art is about her interaction with a six-year-old girl who visited her studio.

A woman and her daughter came into Lorr's studio to buy a painting. As Lorr discussed art with her mother, the six-year-old looked around, too. She stopped in front of a large painting of a sleeping woman. There was a chair beneath the painting and the little girl crawled up on the chair so that she could touch the painting. Her mother cried out at her to stop, but Lorr said "no, it's alright."

She watched as this young child rubbed her hand across the painting back and forth. "I always thought that's how museums should allow us to appreciate art. I once went to the Met and I touched a Van Gogh. The guard ran over and told me I would have to leave if I touched it again. But I thought it was important. It was so yummy!"

So here she was this girl with her little hand going back and forth, back and forth over the painting. With her hand on the painting, she turned and looked at her mother and said, "Mommy. Love!"



"Oh my goodness. That was it. That's what she got from it. She didn't even see the whole painting. She was up close. She was touching and very close. But something drew her to that. And she was there, getting the feeling. That was the best review I ever got of my work!"

For many years after, Lorr wrote to the little girl every year and sent her a sketchbook of drawings with a message, "You are still in my heart."

If art inspires you, please support The Drawing Studio with a gift this holiday season. Thank you!