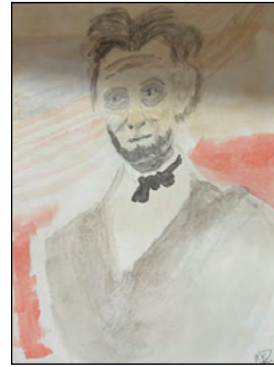
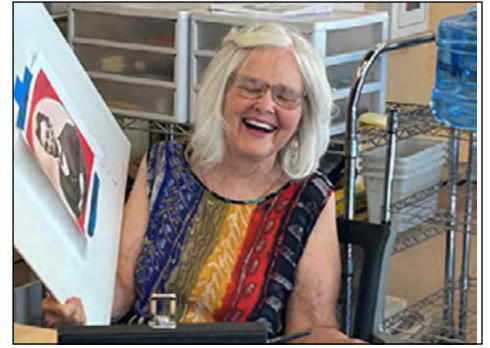
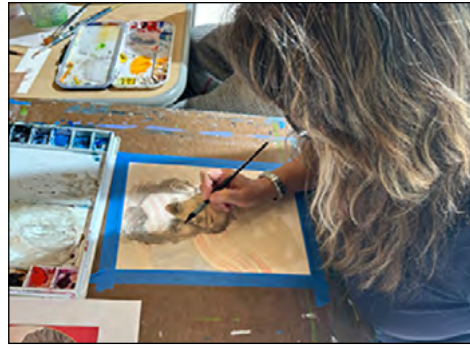




Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

The Challenge of Completing a Painting



It's often said that the initial 90% of an artwork comes easily, but the final 10% is the most challenging, requiring the greatest insight. This is when the painter steps back, from the artwork and seriously considers the piece as a whole. It might be time to stop or fix a little detail that is confusing. Also, sizing up the focus point and ensuring the eye goes to that focus point and then moves around within the artwork.

These were the issues the Oakland veterans worked on last Friday. We had a rusty truck painting (where we were discovering the quality of granulation in watercolors) and a monochrome portrait of Abe Lincoln. Some vets completed both. Some hadn't begun either and worked on a moody photo source of the Bay Area. Others took their painting home and took it as far as they could in their home studio.

Conversation ranged from: the best place for seeing great flocks of birds rising and convoluting the shape of the flock before landing, travels in Umbria, Italy, teaching watercolors, and the joys of driving a son's sports car while he was out of town.

In the end we put all the paintings up on the wall and looked them over. What a range! A number were beautifully finished. Others were progressing. Some had been backed into a corner. Nevertheless, everyone was excited by the prospects of their painting or the success. It was a fine day of painting together.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

