



Julia Chen is an artist and educator that has enriched the creative community at Educational Alliance Art School for years. Julia received her MFA from New York Academy of Art, and MA and BS from New York University. Julia's artwork primarily focuses on the human form and the environments that they occupy. Wielding a virtuosic grasp of the material, Julia creates a lush, almost magical, environment for a viewer to inhabit. Whether her subject is a naturalistic portrait or a landscape rendered in soft brushstrokes, her paintings invite you inside a space that is immediately calming and reflective. Encouraging you to view the people and places in your own life with a renewed sense of wonder and appreciation.

Julia's love of art has made her a consummate student, always hungry to learn more. Here is Julia describing in her own words how she has engaged in further educating herself during the Covid-19 pandemic:

If I don't draw, paint or create something for a while I feel restless. Since Covid-19, I have been attending online live model drawing sessions. I was excited to find that artists and models are jumping in to serve the art communities by hosting these online sessions. After a few sessions drawing using charcoal, I noticed collectively in my drawings of the portraits that there are more white spaces on the paper as opposed to when I was drawing live models in person in the past. This probably resulted from being unable to see the details, especially the eyes and distinguish planes with little tonal differences through a laptop screen. I had to rely more on my knowledge of the bone and muscle structures. There was not much shading in the lights. The other challenge was the distortion of the camera lens that made the arm, hand or mid-section of the face closer to the lens enlarged or elongated. However, I like how these drawings turned out, sort of a cleaner, tranquil look with some exaggerated perspective. I also tried watercolor which I haven't been using for years and discovered the fun of playing with warm and cool with this medium in this setting. The warm and cool contrast is more prominent somehow looking at the screen. These are works from this Covid-19 period thus far.

In addition to her artistic practices, Julia also has an extensive practice as an educator. Here Julia describes her student's work:

My students' works ground me. I find their works honest and truthful which is the quality I appreciate the most in a work of art. It's precious. My students don't know that I learn as much from them as they learn from me. I'm often amazed with the process and result of their exploration and experimentation. It could be the unexpected choice of background color, interesting brush strokes through the entire piece or quality of the lines that ended up working well with their creation. I take notes of that.

Exhibitions of Julia's work include New York Academy of Art, NY; Medialia Gallery, NY; Spring Studio, NY; RH Gallery, NY; Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, NY; Richard Demato Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY. She has taught at BMCC, City University of New York and the CE program at New York Academy of Art.

You can learn more about Julia's work on her website: <http://juliachenstudio.yolasite.com/>

