

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST: KATHLEEN HARTLEY**

Thirty years is a long time to defer an artistic calling, but that is what I did as a public school art teacher. While it is true that I spent those years honing the craft of art, and collecting the passions and ideas of art, I made the decision to set aside my Artist persona in favor of Teacher. I have no regrets, but now I am an Artist. The year of the pandemic gave me time and space to develop a focus, with no pressure to perform and no expectations from others.

I found my voice almost immediately, and my subject. The world around me, here in Georgetown, speaks to me and inspires me as a source of visual imagery and as a spiritual guide.

The natural world and our interior worlds seem to be two sides of the same coin. The stillness of a cat napping in a winter sunbeam reminds me to live in the moment. Birdwatching in the early spring reminds me that we all live one moment to the next.

During winter in ordinary times, we pass by trees with barely a glance. When they are stripped to their skeletal essentials, it is easy for us to assume they are hibernating, or worse, dead. But, during the winters of pandemic isolation, I have remembered that they are neither. The Trees bear witness to our tragedy, to birth and rebirth. The Birds listen to our honking, muttering, sobbing, laughter, they hear the echoes of empty streets, and they lean into the noise of life. The Sun is a sentry, steadfast in being present for whenever we remember look up. The Pets, indoors, wait for us to return, for us to breathe again, to awaken from nightmare or boredom so profound it's more like death. The world celebrates the arrival of a new season and shares our joy when we finally remember we are alive.

This is my subject and I hope that my paintings will help people remember that nature is our connection to Life.

### **Special Fundraiser for Ukrainian Relief:**

There will be an opportunity to bid on a 16"x20 painting. The highest bid will receive the painting, and 100% of the purchase price will be donated to the International Relief Committee. (photo of painting coming soon)