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# TAKE ME TO THE STUDIO

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*Villanueva, Asturias, Spain 6/2019*

*A very wet on wet watercolor of a Roman Bridge.*

## *Where I wandered-*

Somehow after the Installation *Purlieu* at Cazenovia College ended, my classes at Morrisville and everything else stepped in front of writing a newsletter. I've said little about what was in the works for the rest of the spring and summer. *And now it's the end of July! So let's catch up...*

Our spring was all things Spain, my husband Bruce and I spent most of April and May planning and looking at everything Spanish. This came about because we decided to join friend and artist, **Mary Padgett** on her plein air painting trip to Asturias in northern Spain. I spent the spring trying to learn Spanish and relearn watercolor painting. The learning curve for both was *steep*. June was all about travel we started out on our own and met up with the group after several days. We spent eight days in Asturias a very verdant mountainous region on the northern coast with 14 others including Mary and her husband Buzz (William). Half the crew were painters half were adventurers who did photography, hiked, biked and read. Each day we travelled to different locations painting and picnicking while the adventurers wandered about. It was a glorious time.

*Plein air painting and watercolor are humbling;* they a very different approach than what I do on a normal day. While I do wander about in the landscape I am usually, writing little notes, taking photographs, putting stuff in places, and sketching but not trying to create a representation of what I see. And watercolor while very portable is considered the most unforgiving of

paint media. Your whites traditionally should be the white of the paper. *SAVE THE WHITES!* The little painting above is my modest example. I was painting a charming Roman bridge in Villanueva Asturias when it started to rain. Half of my paint ran off the paper! I am reminded that I have always maintained that I must live with the consequence of existing with nature in my art making. 'Twas my best lesson of the week, prompting me to always be open to the serendipity of being a part of the environment.

We moved from Spain to Milan Italy for a short visit to a friend and artist **Mary Crenshaw**. Milan is a very different place than rural Spain and you can see the influence of the urban energy in Mary's painting just as you can see color and form of place in Mary Padgett's painting. I love to see the diversity of work and ways of *seeing* that my artist friends employ.

*Where's the next exhibit?*

*Walk the Meadows and Marshes*

*Broad St. Gallery*

*20 Broad St. Hamilton NY, August 30-October 10th*

*Opening reception on:*

*Saturday, September 7, 2019*

*I will send out a notice closer to the date with the hours.*

*I hope to see you there.*

*There will be new work to share with you.*

*Enjoy the rest of this busy summer!*



Poppies Bloom with Chestnuts-24x18" Acrylic on Arches BFK  
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*Leigh*

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*An essential element of any art is risk. If you don't take a risk then how are you going to make something really beautiful, that hasn't been seen before?*

*Francis Ford Coppola*