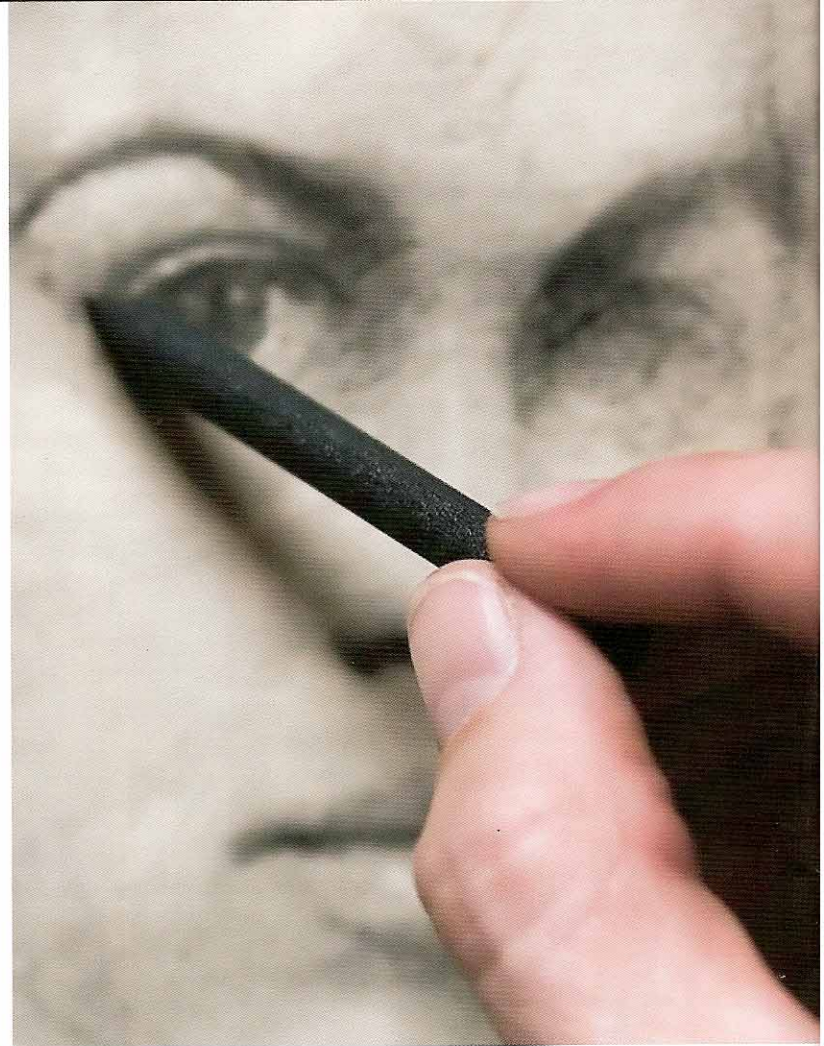




**Artist Profile/Jill Hooper**



**What is a typical day in your studio?**

I lay out my palette of 16 colors, mix every color that I think I will be using (which get tweaked when actually painting), arrange the setup for the model or still-life and try to keep a mindset that this is your last chance to paint...then sunset comes and the light dims and I might hire a model for a drawing if any energy remains.

**Why did you choose to pursue a representational, as opposed to an abstract, style of art?**

Other ways of painterly expression didn't feel right to me...something was missing and I knew I needed training just like how a musician needs to learn a scale, a writer needs to know what a direct object is... a painter needs tools to express himself. I found that the greatness and complexity of nature itself is rich with nuance, mystery, color, vitality (if done right) that exceeds even the greatest of human imagination.



**What inspires you when working on a still-life?**

I like being alone and I am drawn to quietness and the simplicity of commonplace objects—the overlooked—I like subtleties—finding the lemon-yellow speck of highlight on a green ink well, the unique bend of a wilting leaf, a tarnished beauty in the rotting changes of a gold pear. Still-life provides an exploration of composition and color.

**How do you think that traditional painting fits in the contemporary art world?**

Finding humanity is a timeless thing. No brushstroke can ever be repeated...it is unique to the moment, the model. There is always room for an honest painting in the contemporary art world.

**You are the youngest living artist whose work is in the Gibbes' permanent collection. Can you tell us about any works or artists that you saw in the Gibbes that inspired you as you began the study of painting?**

I was initially taken with Thomas Sully's self-portrait and the freshness and vitality in the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilmor. One day several years ago while exploring the museum with my former teacher D. Jeffrey Mims, he pointed out John Koch's painting, "Painter and his Wife"....the lighting was truly observed, the subject matter sincere, well-drawn. Tarbell's "Two Sisters", Robert Henri's "The Green Fan", William Merritt Chase's "Still-life of Fish"....are all inspirations that I run in to the museum thirsty for a glimpse of...

Jill Hooper's work is represented at  
Ann Long Fine Art, [annlongfineart.com](http://annlongfineart.com).