

## Catherine Trowbridge Application for the Candy R. Wei Prize for International Studies in Art and Design

Studying abroad in Florence during the summer of 2013 has been the most enriching experience of my life.

I enrolled in a Renaissance art history class that filled each week with ten hours of monasteries, cathedrals, and museums. In my free time, I would return to the Bargello, the Uffizi, and the Galleria Palatina to sketch the works that caught my attention during class. Having the opportunity to be in their physical presence for an extended amount of time gave a new dimension to my understanding. I felt such an intense connection from recreating the contours of the figures' faces that I felt the pieces practically coming to life. My most memorable experience was drawing Cristofano Allori's *Giuditta con la testa di Oloferne*—the longer I made eye contact with the titular heroine, the more vitality the centuries-old assemblage of paint emitted.

I've transferred this electric engagement with masterpieces to my Stamps career by including bits of art I admire in each of my own paintings, especially in my IP project. The pieces I encountered in Italy continue to make their way into my work, along with architecture and plants I photographed during weekend excursions all over Tuscany.

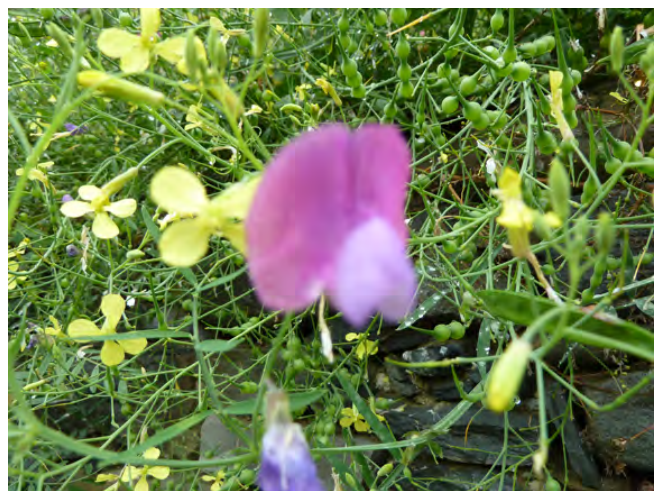
On the last day of my art history class, our professor took us to the Capponi Chapel to see Jacopo Pontormo's Mannerist *La Deposizione*. She emotionally explained to us that she always liked to end with this painting because to her it answered the question posed by the end of the Renaissance: "Where do you go from perfection?" *La Deposizione* shows the possibilities of innovation after it seemed impossible to improve upon painting. It's also astounding how much emotional impact a work of art from centuries ago can have today—this uniquely transcendent quality is why I pursue painting.



*Fiori*, Fall 2013  
Oil on canvas  
40" x 52"



Window in a Fiesole church

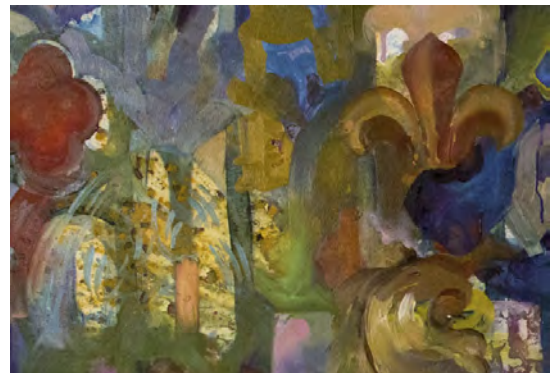


Wildflowers in Cinque Terre

Catherine Trowbridge  
cathtrow



*Angeles, Winter 2015*  
Oil on canvas  
42" x 72"



Detail of fleur de lis  
and angel wing



Ceiling in Palazzo Vecchio



Window in Florence church



*Date Lab*, Fall 2014  
Oil on canvas  
39" x 39" + 45" x 45"



Detail of statue in in-progress *Date Lab*



Statue in Pisa's Camposanto

Catherine Trowbridge  
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