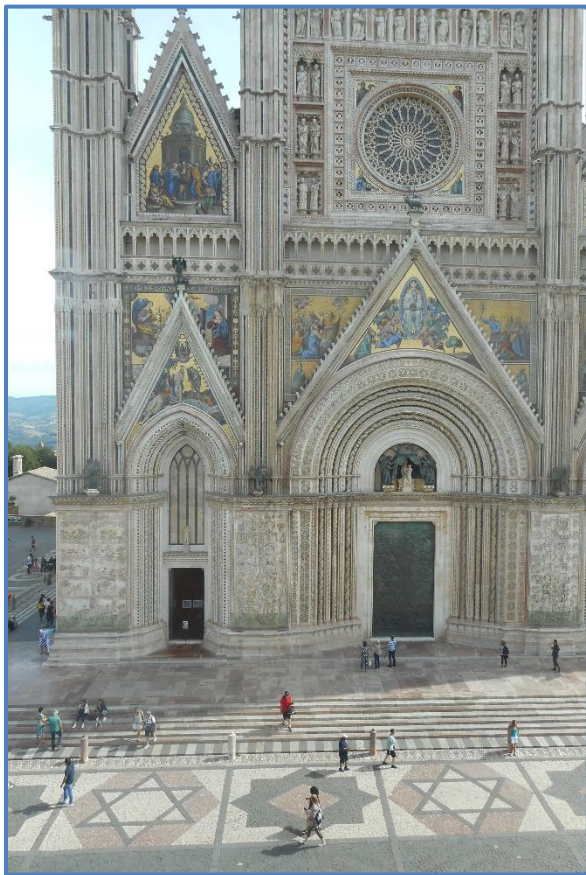


EXPLORING & PAINTING
CENTRAL ITALY
Orvieto & Rome



SEPTEMBER 8-19, 2019



Our Hotel, Orvieto

Monday, September 9, 2019

Arrived in Rome shortly before noon. Breakfast on the flying cattle car was a new low. A pastry (at least it was warm) and a teensy-weensy cup of coffee with a packet of powdered skim milk. Where is the cappuccino? I found my driver, and we were off. It took about two hours to get to Orvieto, which is an old hill town and looks to be quite charming. It was great to see everyone again.



We all enjoyed the patio in front of the hotel.

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

A beautiful sunny day. We met outside at 10:00 and spent the morning painting nearby. After lunch, we walked to Piazza S. Giovanni for an afternoon of painting. The view across the valley was spectacular as well as the view of the wall of the old city. Had a restorative prosecco at show 'n' tell after so diligently plying my paintbrushes all day.



My painting and the actual scene.



View from the Piazza S. Giovanni



Getting ready to paint at Piazza S. Giovanni.



The view for my painting.



My painting of the tower.

Wednesday,
September 11, 2019

Another beautiful sunny day. We took a bus to Bagnoregio, where we boarded a van to Civita di Bagnoregio, a hilltop village that is accessed by a long and steep pedestrian bridge at the bottom of several flights of stairs. Since I was recovering from a knee injury, I and another woman turned back before we got to the bridge. We went back up the stairs to the café for a restorative cappuccino and had a lovely day

chatting, bought postcards, and had lunch. Around 1:30, the troops started coming back. They all enjoyed it, but said we made the right decision to turn back.



Civita di Bagnoregio.

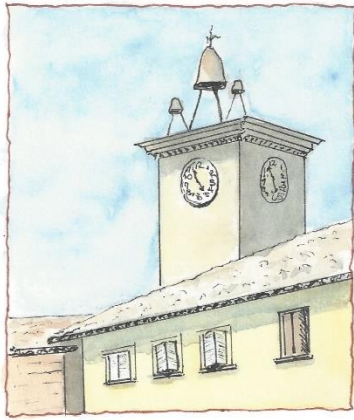
In the afternoon we went to Bomarzo Garden where there are lots of very cool statues. There were a lot of uneven stone steps, but several people were very helpful, which was great. We gathered in front of the hotel for beverages. I had an Aperol Spritz.



One of the monsters at Bomarzo Garden.



View of the tower in my painting.



My painting.

Thursday, September 12, 2019

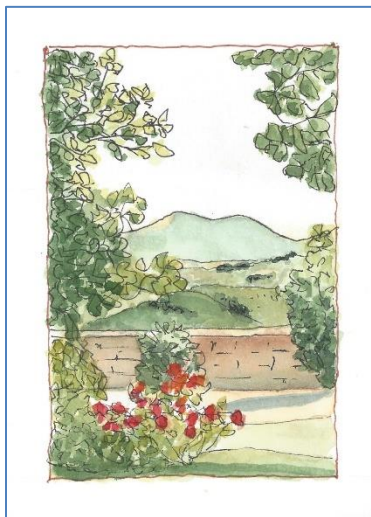
After breakfast, my roomie and I checked out the market. Not very impressive, with a lot of cheesy stuff that looked like it came from China. Back at the hotel, a bunch of our group was painting in front of the hotel with more on the steps of the Duomo. I went to the steps and did a wee painting. We spent the afternoon painting in the park at Fortezza Albornoz & Porta Rocca.



Inside the park at Fortezza Albornoz & Porta Rocca.



The scene I based my painting on.



My painting.

Friday, September 13, 2019

The gorgeous weather continues. Today we had a day trip to Assisi, which was about two hours from our hotel. We visited the Basilica di Santa Chiara, aka Saint Clare, founder of the Poor Clares. Santa Chiara is the patron saint of television. Next stop was the Basilica di San Francesco, where there is a lower chapel and an upper one. When we got back to the hotel after dinner, a bunch of our group was in front of the hotel imbibing limoncello, so we joined them.



Basilica di Santa Chiara, Assisi.



Basilica di San Francesco, Assisi.

Saturday, September 14, 2019

Sunny and beautiful. After breakfast my roommate and I went to the open-air market where a man was selling clothes that looked like they were designed with her in mind. She bought two dresses. Came back to the hotel and sat on the patio working on our paintings. I had a restorative cappuccino. This afternoon's painting spot was at Chiesa di S. Giovenale. After dinner, when we got back to the hotel, we ordered prosecco and sat outside, as it was a lovely evening.

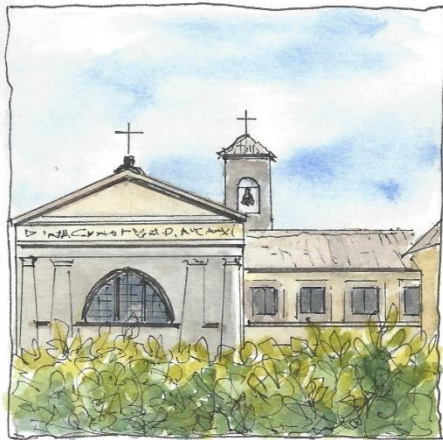
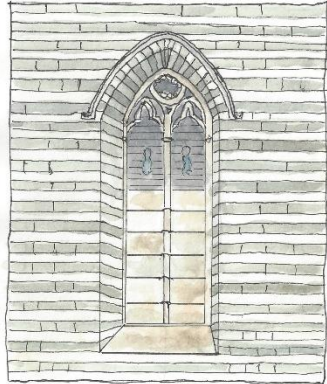


My painting and the Chiesa di S. Giovenale.

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Our beautiful weather continued Sunday. Several of us went to the Museo Claudio Faina & Museo Civico, which has a wonderful collection of Etruscan pottery from this part of Italy. Back to the hotel for a restorative cappuccino. Several of our group were diligently plying their paintbrushes in the sitting area in front of the hotel. Rather than painting with the group in the afternoon, I decided to stay at the hotel to finish my drawing of the Duomo window that I started yesterday. Finished my window drawing and did a wee painting of the view from where I was sitting. Came to the realization that skies are fun to paint in watercolor, although

they are my least favorite part of working in acrylic. Show 'n' tell was at 5:00, per usual. Had a bit of down time, which we used for packing before we went to dinner. Yay! Carbonara at last. Good, but not as good as my sister's.



The Duomo, my sketch of one of the windows, sketch of the view beyond the Duomo.

Monday, September 16, 2019

More sunny weather. Just before 10:30, we were on the bus to Rome. Arriving in Rome, we were on our own, so several of us visited the Pantheon, which was amazing! Next stop was the Piazza Navone, to see the Fountain of the Four Rivers: Nile, Danube, Ganges, and Rio de la Plata. We stopped at a café and enjoyed cold coffee drinks with whipped cream accompanied by some lovely pastries.



The Pantheon outside and inside, Piazza Navone.





The Fountain of the Four Rivers.



Something yummy!

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

The sunny weather continues. We were on the road to Tivoli before 9:00. There are 25 steps from the street to the lobby of our hotel, 7 more steps to the lift, and one more step in the hall leading to our room. Quite a challenge! I'm glad we didn't stay here first, as my knee is considerably stronger than it was a week ago. This hotel is a wee bit tired, not as nice as the one in Orvieto. It took about an hour to get to Tivoli. We had a 10:30 ticket for Villa d'Este, where we toured a section of the house and walked around



*Left and above: Tivoli Gardens.
Below: Hadrian's Villa*



the gardens, which were gorgeous. There were a lot of steps and ramps, so the walking was challenging. A few minutes before 2:00 we left for Hadrian's Villa, which was a short distance away. I was exhausted from the morning's exertion, and the part we wanted to see was at the other end, but it was worth it. It would have been nice to have more time to explore, but we had to meet the tour bus at 4:00.



Hadrian's Villa.

[Wednesday, September 18, 2019](#)

Wednesday was sunny and hot. My roomie and I went to Santa Maria degli Angeli et dei Martiri, the Baths of Diocletian, and took the Hop on Hop off bus. We went to the Colosseum and the Forum and got off to take photos of the Tiber River. We had our group dinner tonight. It was raining when we left the restaurant.



Santa Maria degli Angeli et dei Martiri and the Baths of Diocletian.



The Colosseum



The Roman Forum



The Tiber River, Rome.

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Thursday morning suitcases had to be ready 6:00, with the vans to the airport leaving at 6:30. It was a gray day in Rome. My flight to JFK left at 10:40, right on time. Had a layover of several hours, and then it was on to Logan. I was able to catch an earlier bus from Logan to Concord, which was great. My sister and Willow were waiting at the bus station. Willow was all excited to see me, with her tail wagging and lots of kisses. Good sis had dinner for me: a sandwich, with chips, seltzer, and cookies. A very quick bath and to bed, with my sweet pooch on my lap. It was a great trip, but it's good to be home.



Willow.