



Autumn Rush

by

Polinda

Autumn Rush

*The exhilarating race
to capture all the
fall glory
before wind and snow
wash the color away.*



Autumn Rush 48"x23"

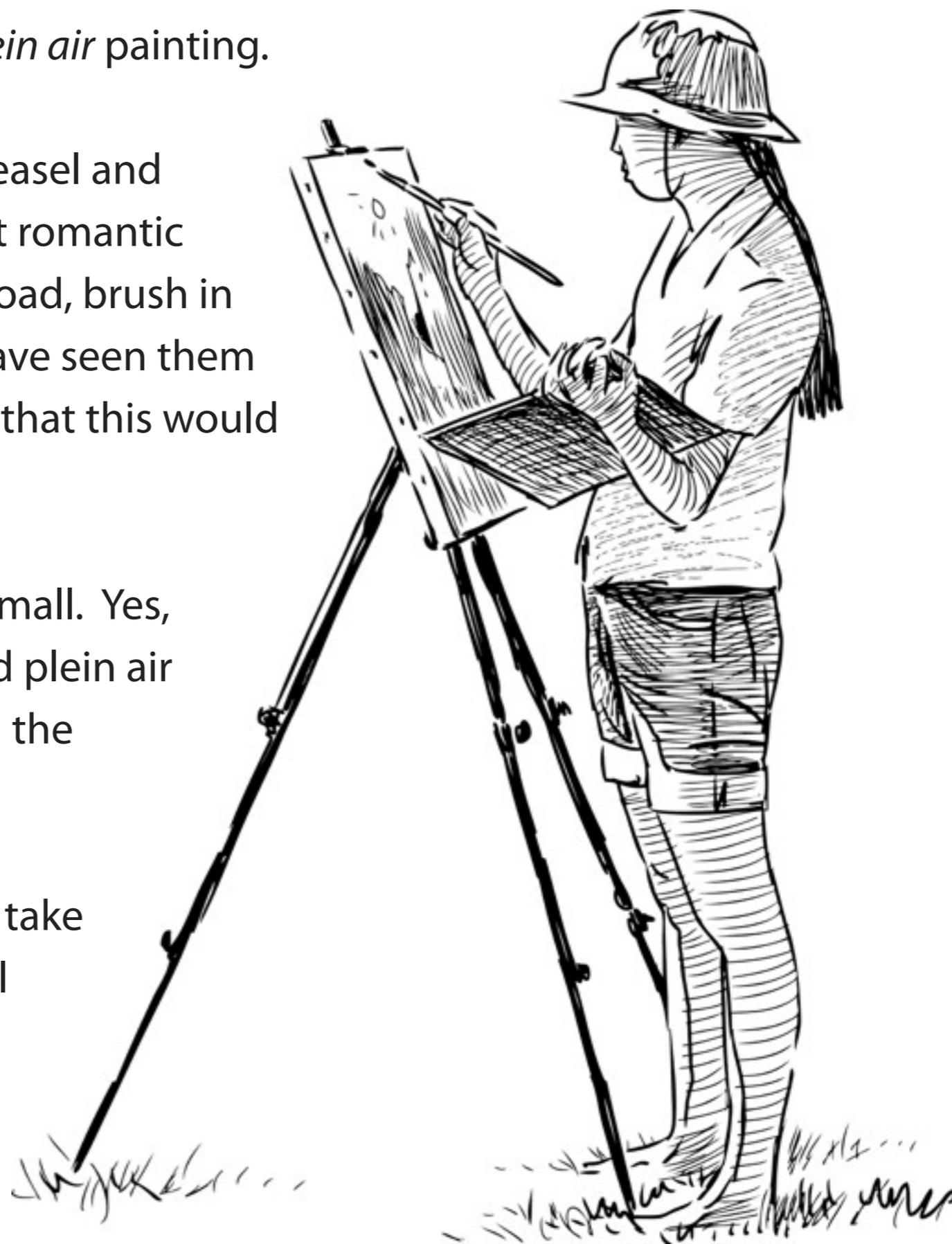
I have had a secret desire to engage in *plein air* painting.

Traditionally done with a small portable easel and small canvas. I'm sure you have seen that romantic view of the lone artist on the side of the road, brush in hand capturing the moment in paint. I have seen them and have wanted to join them. I decided that this would be my year to do so.

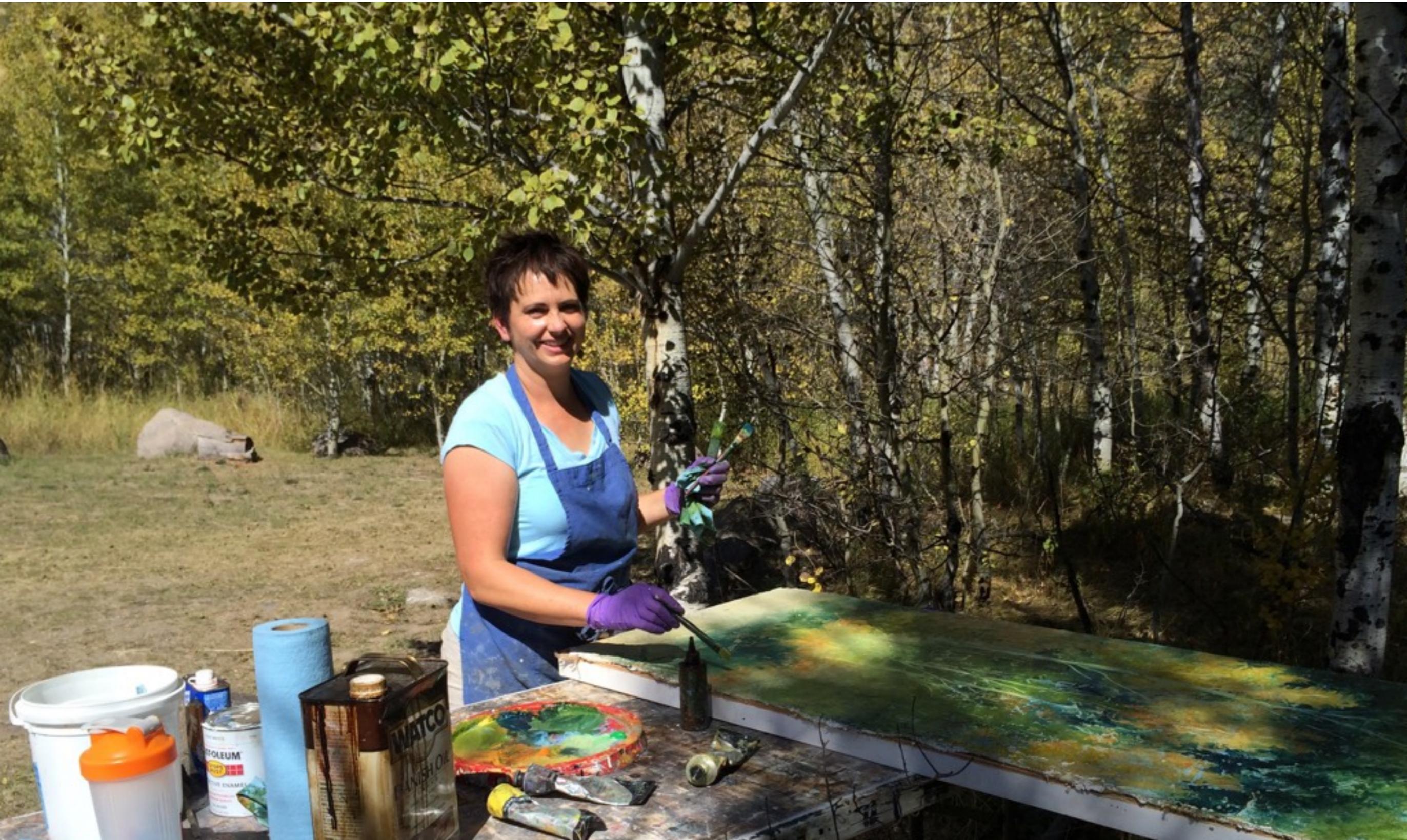
One problem, I really don't care to paint small. Yes, I know many artists will go in the field and *plein air* small studies that become larger works in the studio.

That story just did not fit me. I wanted to take my studio to the air. Not just a small easel and small canvas but my **whole studio**.

So I did.



As I traveled this fall visiting my galleries, I would take an extra day or two and set up an outdoor studio and paint.



For years, I have heard talk of Ashcroft, Colorado. An old ghost town just outside of Aspen. This was my year to find Ashcroft and to fall in love. I could not believe what I found, an intense beauty and peacefulness.

















Finding the perfect spot can be a bit tricky in my Sprinter van. The key is to not get trapped. Going down the wrong road could make for a challenging exit. It took me some scouting to find a place that both me and my van could stop to paint.



Once I secure the perfect parking spot, the search for my subject takes place. It is hard to narrow it down to one spot due to so many beautiful views. Set up happens quickly. My big plastic table on PVC pipe leg extensions is first. The palettes are next. Yes, they are bucket lids. They stack nicely and are easy to scrape clean. Then my Bella Rotta canvas comes out. I carry all my paints and brushes in 5 gallon buckets. This makes it easy to take everything that I would want from the studio.



Slight
Breeze

Perfect
Inspiration



Plein air painting requires a decoding process.

- What do I leave out?
- What do I keep in?
- What colors do I want to capture?

It is so easy to get carried away by details and distraction. The studio feels so familiar and safe.

The great outdoors feel so invigorating yet distracting.

Plein air painting also requires a physical stamina that is hard to describe. Standing on uneven ground can be tricky for me as I move a lot when I paint. Changing temperatures require layers of clothing. The sun can get very intense. Forgetting to eat seems to be a big challenge as well.





Lunch Break

boiled eggs

red pepper

raw almonds

water

Best Seat IN Town! Can you tell I am tired? Believe it or not, it is hard work painting.









To learn more about my Bella Rotta technique, you can visit my website at: www.rolindastotts.com

See the Video of Autumn Rush on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEXGIStdFSQ>

Thank you for sharing this moment in my story.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rolinda". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent initial 'R'.