



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am so excited and ready for this new venture. I also... feel like Katniss Everdeen, "I volunteer as tribute", throwing myself into the arena as President Snow, a.k.a. Covid 19, looks on throwing curve balls left and right. (Hopefully, you are a Hunger Games fan and get my reference.)

Truly though, despite these uncertain times, I am opening this studio for you and your families. The children's smiles behind their brightly printed masks, infinite excitement for all things art, and the big sighs of relief from parents witnessing their children HAPPY and worry free at the end of art class are what motivates me right now. Each photo I receive after art class, sweet review, and email from a parent who is thrilled to have an activity they can send their toddler to with their nanny or grandparent and not have to worry has filled my heart. For many of you, this was the first activity your child has taken part in outside your home. It means the world to me that you have entrusted me with your children and that art class is something that has brought your children joy during this challenging year.

In the past few months I have had the honor of working closely with Michelle Sweet at Make a Mess. She, as well as other local business owner mentors who are battling their way through Covid, have not only offered me endless sage advice but have taught me how to run a facility with utter scrutiny and care, ensuring everyone's health and safety. Opening my own brick and mortar studio will allow me to offer more classes and workshops. I will be able to set up a studio space with every participant's safety as a top priority. My core values of encouraging confidence, creativity, and community are more important than ever right now. These qualities also contribute to one's overall mental well-being and thus one's overall good health. Funny enough I have always sold myself to my students as an "art doctor" in addition to being an art teacher. This was because I can typically fix anything that goes wrong with a project. I never anticipated "art doctor" to be applicable in another way but oddly enough I think it kind of applies here.

Two things I have dearly missed this fall are having my own art room and sharing our family's home with visitors. When we were house hunting years ago a friend once told me that any place I ever lived in would feel homey, it wasn't the space itself, it was the welcoming, inspiring way I made it feel. I have never forgotten that and hope to do those kind words well with this studio space. Please come visit Harbor Creative Arts - the soon to be most happy, healthy, magical space to create art! The soon to be Harbor Creative Arts home is for you.

Stay safe friends.

Peace, love, and paintbrushes,

**Rachel**