

Wish You Were Here: *Anna Conti*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

I lived in San Francisco's Sunset District from 1987 through 2015, when I moved to Reno, Nevada.

What prompted you to leave?

The insane cost of living and loss of culture (the exodus of artist friends) in San Francisco was the driving force that took me to Reno.

Where did you end up?

I've been in Reno, Nevada for the last five years and love it here. The artist community was strong when I first moved here, but SF-style gentrification is taking over Reno, too. So now I'm moving on again.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

My work has expanded in some ways - I started doing work in metal, and took up oils again. I get a lot more commissions here, for a broad range of subject matter and media. I had to give up etching, because I couldn't find a press space in Reno. But the bulk of my work has been plein air landscapes in watercolor.

What are you up to now?

I'm embarking on an extended road trip around the continent in my van, which is outfitted as a mobile live-in studio. I'm bringing watercolors, acrylics, and oils. I'll probably be doing a lot of landscapes, but I'm open to whatever comes. I expect to be on the road for at least a year, maybe longer.