



## JOHN HOLSTEIN

*I get into a meditative state and the paintings just sort of create themselves.*

John Holstein is 64 years old, has lived in Astoria the past 5 years but originally from Detroit, Michigan. He has been painting 4 years.

He got inspired at an art show in the Flag Room at the Astoria Public Library. He talked to Jane Barney from Clatsop Community College at one of the shows and she said for him to come up and take a class. Royal Nebecker is his art teacher.

One of his paintings received "Best of Show" at a student art show a few months back.

*The Flag Room used to have monthly art shows with student art from various schools and once Coast Rehabilitation Services had a show. It used to be open to the public but now it costs to use it for a meeting. It's only used for meetings now. You can't play the piano anymore, or use it for anything unless you pay for a meeting. I want to see the Flag Room open to the public again.*

He claims an artistic epiphany.

*I tried to paint Alice Schurman realistically and I botched it terribly. So I thought, I can draw realistically but I have to paint the way I feel.*

*After I stopped painting Alice I relaxed and my paintings seemed to emerge by themselves as if they had lives of their own. It was kind of crucial I paint Alice. She was a watershed, a turning point."*

John's painting on this page is a birthday gift from my mother Josephine and my maternal aunt/godmother Anthonina. Its colors are wine red and black, an eye-rim of blue, a brain fountain of white; layered with texture.

~MPMc