

UMA KELKAR

Founder + Artist + Engineer

Uma is a high energy engineer+artist combo and popular workshop instructor. Her discipline to have a simultaneous 18+ years tech career in Silicon Valley and 10+ years art career positions her to leverage her rare birds-eye view of the two seemingly disconnected fields.

Fine Art Business Experience

Proficient in multiple media including watercolor, ink, oil, gouache, digital and charcoal.

40+ workshops taught globally in multiple media - analog and digital, including at multinationals like Apple Inc. and Facebook Inc.

35+ national and international honors and awards for painting.

[Faculty](#) for the global www.urbansketchers.org (90K+ member group with >360 local chapters) and international symposium presenter, coordinate and work with Education/Outreach/Finance team members across the globe. May '17 – to date

9+ years of local art community involvement with experience ranging from publicity manager of local art gallery (Gallery House, Palo Alto) to leading weekend plein air groups (Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society), to show curator.

Executive Board member of Urban Sketchers, global. A 90K+ member, 350+ local chapter grassroots organization. Jul '19 – Jul '22

Manager of [online communities](#) that stretch to >5000 members. Co-Founder member with CSPWC signature member, Marc Taro Holmes

Media outreach person for Gallery House, local cooperative art gallery in Palo Alto.

Builder of local sketching community, builder of art classes for engineers and working parents.

- Experience in ideating on bringing art to non-art communities, in exposing my art side in an engineering setting, in showing the elegance in design that art brings, in building a dialog between engineers/architects and artists about leveraging both sides of the brain. Specifically, would like to highlight an online, annual global art event that ropes in people irrespective of their perceived art proficiency and has made a community of connected people across continents and professions.

20+ years of experience in leading diverse global teams in tech career.

Publications

- Books:
 - The Urban Sketching Handbook: [Drawing with a tablet](#): Easy Techniques for Mastering Digital Drawing on Location, Quatro Publication
 - Author of [Behind the Scenes](#) that highlights the juggling act of making time for art in a busy Bay Area lifestyle
 - Co-author on 6 books on [portraiture](#), [landscape painting](#), [color palettes](#), [people sketching](#), [on location sketching 101](#), [urban sketching evolution](#)

Education

- Trained with world class master watercolorists Charles Reid (USA), Alvaro Castagnet (Uruguay) and Joseph Zbukvic (Australia) 2014 - 2015
- Master of Science (Electrical Engineering), Stanford University 1999 - 2001

Community Participation

- Executive Board Member, Urban Sketchers Global ([LINK](#)) 2019 - 2022
- Co-Founder of 5000+ member group 30x30DirectWatercolor ([LINK](#)) 2018 - present
- Member of Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society (SCVWS), [Weekend paint out lead 2016-2017] 2010 - present
- California Watercolor Association (CWA) [Juror at member show & national show] 2010 - present
- Gallery House, Palo Alto 2011 - 2015
- San Francisco Bay Area Urban Sketchers 2010 - present
- Member, Urban Sketchers group 2010 - present

Soft Skills

- Exceptional aptitude to break down problems into bite size, to make schedules and to clearly communicate expectations and milestones.
- Efficiency, cutting through drama while being empathic, are key strengths.
- Come with -
 - flexibility owing to openness of mind
 - ambition and **strong vision** of conducting research studies across engineering and art that will engage larger community and help quantify the benefits of cross pollination
 - discipline of execution that spans engineering, art and life in general.

Occupation

- Founder of AI based art-tech company [Vivify.ai](#) 2022 – present
- Led chip design for fiberoptic communications and other high speed communication links. 2001 - 2022

Online Presence

Website: www.umakelkar.com

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/umapaints/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/UmaPaints/>

Specific tags I coined for fostering a conversation:

#ipaintlikeanengineer

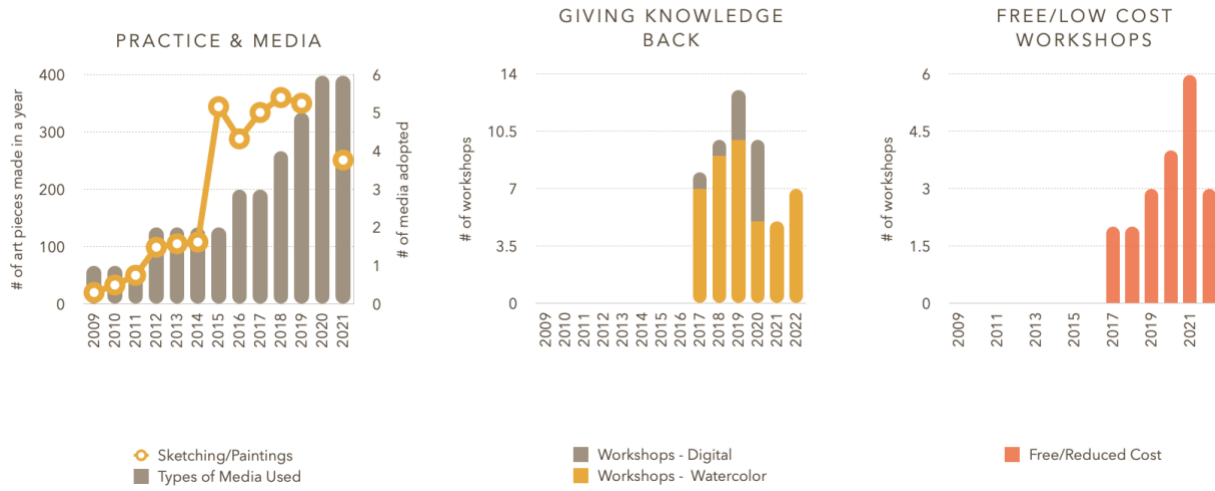
#idrawlikeanengineer

Contact

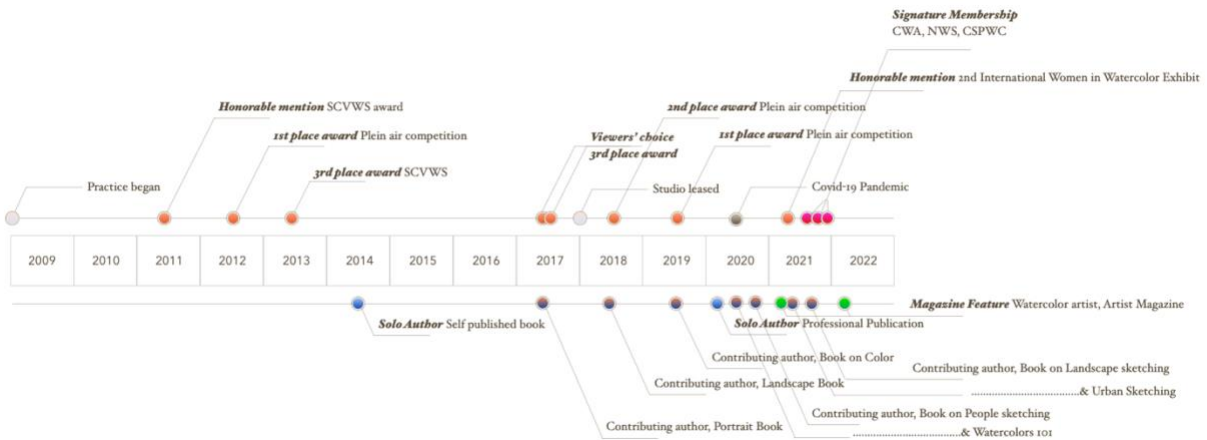
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LISTS SHOW VOLUME BUT GRAPHS SHOW TRENDS



TIMELINE TO SHOW HOW THE ART PRACTICE BUILDS AND AT WHAT RATE



PLACES I HAVE VISITED TO PAINT DESPITE A FULL TIME JOB



STATES WITHIN USA I HAVE PAINTED IN. THERE IS MORE COUNTRY TO SEE!

