

## Gene Underwood

Right now, I'm exploring two related themes in my work. The first is the myth of Pandora's Box, updated. These paintings are about everything we wish for and want, buy, consume or keep, and then all the detritus of packaging around us.



*The More Things Change*



*The Ghost of Raisin Bran*



*Aged Savior*



*Freed from Berry Duty*

The second theme is the flip side of all that: everyday pleasures of domestic life that are transitory, comforting, and pleasant.



*Piccata*



*Early Morning Blues*



*Tipped*

All this work is about stopping time.

Still life helps us see a thing situated in light and shadow. It invites us to look closely and notice. What may have been overlooked in passing is now held still, to be looked over. It slows us down. If it's successful, it stops us. Then we begin to think about the character of the choice of things presented in the painting, and the artist's and our relationship to those.

After a career as a creative director in advertising, in Princeton and New York, working with hospitality brands such as Hilton, Marriott, Intercontinental, and many independent hotels and resorts such as The Carlyle, The Sagamore, and Pebble Beach, I re-fired as an oil painter. Before the pandemic, I studied with the landscape painter Materese Roche. Then I took online classes with Craig Stephens and Adriano Farinella.

In one sense, one is always learning to paint. But I like to think I am painting to learn. There's a lot to paint, so this is an intense education. I am finding which things I need to paint my way.

I live in Buckingham in Bucks County, with my husband of 42 years, Terry McNealy, who writes about local history. We live in a house dating from 1760, which teaches us to be connoisseurs of crumble. We both grew up in Bucks County, Terry in Doylestown and I in Woodbourne, near Langhorne. Our life is about continuity and adapting to change. We love living in the Age of Google, but we also watch our relationship with and dependence on technology.

Thank you for looking at my paintings.