

**Artist: Catherine Raef-Dunnigan**

Website: [www.instagram.com/art\\_by\\_card](http://www.instagram.com/art_by_card)

Artwork: "European Window Series"

Size: 8x10"each

Materials Used: Prismacolor pencils on Canson Ma Tiente colored paper.

**The Story Behind the Art**

My husband and I love traveling to Europe. Each of these windows takes us back to a special place and time. First in the series is "Schist Window." When we were in Portugal, I had read about these remote, until recently abandoned, villages in the mountains where every structure was made of schist stone. It was a white-knuckle drive to get there but, in my opinion, well worth it. The schist stones have such an amazing texture in the most lovely shades of brown; I knew they would inspire artwork. Next is "Caged Flower," a rustic window in a beautiful town in Provence, France. I love the starkness of the iron bars contrasting against the lively color of the flower. Third, in the series is "Molly's Cottage." We came across this stone cottage near the end of our drive around the Ring of Beara in southwest Ireland. Again, I just had to capture the juxtaposition of jagged stones with these beautifully large flowers. Fourth is the "Rhein River Window," which is about as iconic as it gets. I enjoyed the way colored pencils made the wood come alive. I did change the color of the windows, which were brown in real life. And, finally, there is "Lisbon Balcony." These denim planters caught my eye while we were on an open-air bus tour of Lisbon, Portugal -- quirky and fun.



"Caged Flower"



"Lisbon Balcony"



"Schist Window"



"Molly's Cottage"



"Rhein River Window"

I have many more of these windows to do and am looking forward to reliving other moments from our travels, especially in these times of restricted travel.

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