

Timeless Café drawings of people, doing their café activities.





I really enjoyed the challenges of capturing them with ink, while they'd be unaware, amidst shuffling motion of being blocked from sight, or changing positions, or getting up before I was finished. All of this including how on or off target my hand-eye-brain-arm coordination was functioning during those moments. That's how drawing works from life in motion! — especially using ink, as the un-erasable medium.

These two worked well for framing, from my Oakland years of 2016 and 2017. I went back to Timeless an average of twice a week then, loving their vegan goodies and rich coffee. I'm crazy for their pesto rolls and cheesecake, enjoying thoroughly while reading and drawing for hours!

I was really into ink washes at the time, and are good examples of what I'd do.

Timeless is in a popular neighborhood on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland, where I lived near a few years previously, and I fell in love with that 'hood, mainly for the half mile length before entering the beautiful old cemetery which the avenue runs into. Many impressive shops, restaurants, theater and cafés line the active strip, and Timeless is easily my favorite place to hang!

I'd see familiar faces there, including brilliant artist from the drawing group and previous roommate Alex, who got me into the neighborhood. And coworker from the Academy of Art, Molly, who tipped me about Timeless serving all vegan goods, without advertising it on the boards! Nice! — so delicious too. I became a regular by 2013, then again in 2015.

A funny story from 2013, when I lived in that neighborhood for a couple of months. I was in Molly's office in the Faculty Development Center for the Academy at Ghirardelli Square at the time. I had to leave soon for BART before rush hour when bicycles are not allowed. Our conversation went something like this :

*"I have to dash to BART while bikes are still allowed on. "*

*" To the east bay? I'm in Oakland "*

*" Me too! What area? "*

*" Piedmont Avenue near the cemetery "*

*" Really? That's where I live! What street? "*

*" Parallel to the main drag, on Glen Avenue "*

*" Me too!! Which building? "*

*" 51 Glen Avenue, it's an old apartment building "*

*" HA - ME TOO!! "*

We lived in the same old apartment building! I was in the basement with a separate entrance, she was upstairs a few stories, knows Alex, but I was new and temporary so we didn't yet cross paths.

Years later when we'd meet at Timeless, Molly would remark about my sketching people who are unaware of it, saying "You're spying!"

Ha!

So she — and her fab partner Armando — are getting these two drawings. Hopefully fitting for their new apartment!

~ Dean Gustafson, March 2022, during round two of the undying sketchbook framing project.