

Capturing a Moment

By Sally Strand



I used these two photos as reference to compose my pastel, **Pause** (12x10). Although the photo below was out of focus, I liked the blur as it obscured the detail and provided the shapes of light and movement of the figure. The photo above offered better information for my sketches of the hallway and bedroom beyond. The yellow shirt and red curtains provided clues for the color palette.



Moments of everyday life that are familiar but often pass by unnoticed—these are what I like to paint. The inspiration for my pastel painting, *Pause*, came about during a summer vacation in a rented beach cottage where I had plenty of time to observe the daily activities of my family. Later, I used two photos of my niece to compose this painting. I rarely paint from

just one photo, preferring instead to build compositions from a variety of sources. In this case, I used the two photos at right, both taken on the fly on my iPhone. The abstract shapes of the food in the refrigerator were pure invention.

What intrigued me most about this scene was the contrast between the artificial light in the refrigerator, the darkened bedroom beyond and the

sliver of light through the curtains. I left the meaning ambiguous so viewers can create their own narratives. **PJ**

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