

# Happy Summer!



I cannot believe it has been nearly a month since I last posted. But as you know from my previous post, I'm in a bit of a transition and taking a step back for re-evaluation. Thank

you so much for your kind words of support and encouragement!!

However, I've missed you! I thought I would send you a note today to let you know what I've been up to.

The general rule of thumb is when the temperature reaches 100 degrees, it is officially summer here. Due to the long, cool and rainy Spring we had, the garden is so abundant!



My tomatoes are FABULOUS! Every day, I go and collect a basketful of various ones-from cherry to pear, to Early Girl and am still waiting for the beefsteaks to ripen.



The peaches this year were so good, we had to fight the birds for them.



A few years back we planted two apricot trees and finally have the best apricots ever! They are small but so flavorful.



The garden has been providing daily gifts of zucchini, spaghetti squash, grapes and fresh herbs.



If you are looking for the easiest salad EVER, please try this one. Simple ingredients consist of fresh tomatoes, apricots, mint, feta cheese, olive oil and salt and pepper. I did drizzle some thick aged balsamic on the top. I have been making and eating this salad every day. Click [here](#) for the recipe from Serious Eats.



On a personal note, my youngest daughter graduated from high school at the end of May. As a celebration gift, we took the whole family (plus friends) to St. Kitts for a vacation. St. Kitts is located in the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean. One side of St. Kitts is on the Atlantic; the other on the Caribbean. It was after high season and before hurricane

season so we had timed it perfectly!



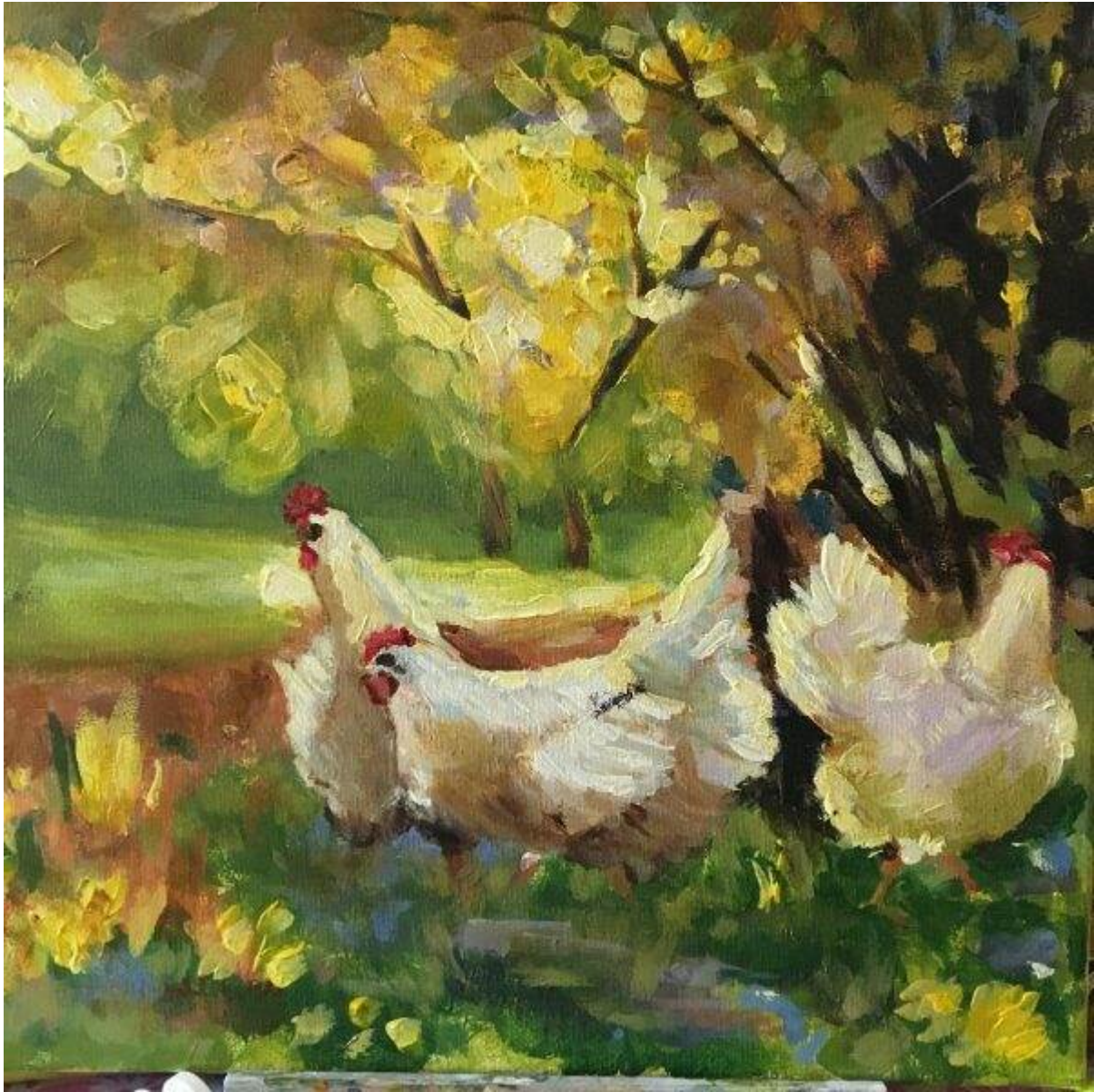
One of the highlights of the trip was TURNING OFF MY PHONE FOR A WEEK. It was glorious. My whole family was together and I was able to be focused on them and not be distracted with technology. Truly fabulous.



The view prior to the volcano hike~took a full week for my legs to recover

When I returned, I spent one week painting everyday. I was able to finish "my girl" and started on 2 new paintings. I will continue to doodle until they feel "done".







I am trying to master an easy cherry pie recipe this summer (as it is my husband's favorite). I attempted one but failed miserably (don't use Trader Joe's frozen cherries). The crust was good though! Once I achieve it, I will definitely share!



Coming soon: My summer reading and movie list are taking shape and will share with you next time!

Happy Summer my friends!

*Mary*