

Emily Gilman Beezley

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"Gramercy Welcome", Oil on Linen Canvas, 14"H x 11"W; Photo inspiration

"Emily, You are sooo energetic, talented and creative! A real genius at work! Love your dedication! Keep on inspiring us!" -Mary H., Glen Rock NJ

Glen Rock, where I lived for 17 years is a Bergen County NJ gem where each home is lovingly maintained and no two homes are alike. One of my favorite town traditions is for homes to have lit welcoming candles in their windows at night - I always looked forward to commuting home and seeing these warm glows on my walk home from the train station. "Gramercy Welcome" is a portrait of a neighbor's house that I've always loved. It's a quirky house - the walls and roofs aren't quite aligned and there is a cozy cottage-y feel to it that is perfect for the lovely Irish couple who live there. One day walking with my dog I happened upon this amazing sky that backlit the house and lit up the windows as if they were on fire. You can see this in the reference photo above.

For "Gramercy Welcome" I toned down the dramatic sky and amped up the daylight on the facade so that the house is the star of the painting. The biggest challenge was getting the angles right and still be true to the original. I kept the warm glowing candlelit windows and simplified the silhouetted trees that bookend the house. Finally I loosely painted the lawn, sidewalk and street with a strong diagonal in the foreground to balance the angle of the roofline and draw the eye in towards the front door.

I love to capture homes 'personalities' in their natural settings. House portraits are done from photographs with oil on canvas and typically take 2 - 4 months to complete and to allow time for the paint to dry. Commissioned portraits include a \$50 donation in your name to [The Spayed Club](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to solving dog and cat overpopulation in the Philadelphia area and beyond.

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