

**From:** Ellen Rice <ellenrice@mchsi.com>

**Subject:** The Nor'easter - frightening, mesmerizing, inspiring

**Preheader:** We dodged a bullet and the beach is coming back

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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in The Ellen Rice Gallery. Don't forget to add ellenrice@mchsi.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Dear

I thought perhaps you would enjoy seeing a few pictures of the progression of the storm that hit our area last week and how the beach is coming back.

A few of the 400 or so photos I took throughout the nor'easter have inspired small studies in oils. One 8" x 8" is in the gallery now. More will come in by the end of this long weekend ~ fresh impressions of the immense energy that raged for nearly eight days.

Bethany was the hardest hit Delmarva beach. The protective dune created by beach replenishment was cut deeply and enough sand was pulled off the beach that the old jetties (seen in my painting *Bethany Breakers* at right and a photo below) have been uncovered again. But we were spared a hurricane, the town was protected more than adequately, and the beach is already coming back!



*Ellen's oil "Bethany Breakers" illustrates the last time the jetties were exposed.*

Here are some of my photos....



Tuesday, Sept. 29. The storm begins to move in.



Tuesday, Sept. 29. Wind kicks up and rain begins.



The morning of Wednesday, Sept. 30. The surf is starting to roll in stronger.



Friday, Oct. 2, dark skies with blowing sand and sea foam.



Saturday, Oct. 3, more of the same, but fiercer winds and more penetrating sand blasts. This is not high tide.



Sunday, Oct. 4, constant motion, wind pushing walkers backwards, rain, flying sea spray, sand pelting.... The waves are mesmerizing.



The morning of Monday, Oct. 5, still rolling. Most of the dune crossings have been turned into 10-foot-high cliffs by the relentless onslaught of waves.





Tuesday, Oct. 6, seagulls reappear, indicating the storm's end is near.



An hour later, though the surf is still rough, blue skies begin to emerge.



Marking the time.



A half hour later looking west over Bethany, the first ray of sun in a week.



Wednesday morning, Oct. 7, the sun is shining and the old jetties have reappeared after years of being buried beneath beach replenishment.



Thursday, Oct. 8, one full week from the nor'easter's start, and the beach is coming back nicely. Friday's beach was substantially bigger. What gave this nor'easter a big head start was a week and a half of "dry" easterly and northeasterly winds hanging on the coast before the major storm started.

Now, between all these photos, imagine ceaselessly pounding surf 24-7. I could hear the ocean's roar from my home a mile inland. At times it was deafening.

I'm so glad Joachim turned away from the coast. I think the dune would have withstood it because hurricanes move faster and Joachim would have been downgraded once it hit colder waters, but who knows? The dunes did their job, Bethany is in good shape and the beach is coming back! :-)

The sun is trying to peak out from behind last night's storm clouds. It feels like October this morning with slightly cooler temps and breezy conditions, but I hear it's going to be a very pleasant day. There's a lot going on up and down the coast this Columbus Day weekend and throughout the rest of October and the holiday season.

If you come to town this weekend, you're welcome to stop in my new gallery and see what this storm has inspired me to paint and take a few moments to enjoy light refreshments.

It's a wonderful time of year at the shore. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A/son' or similar, written in a cursive style.