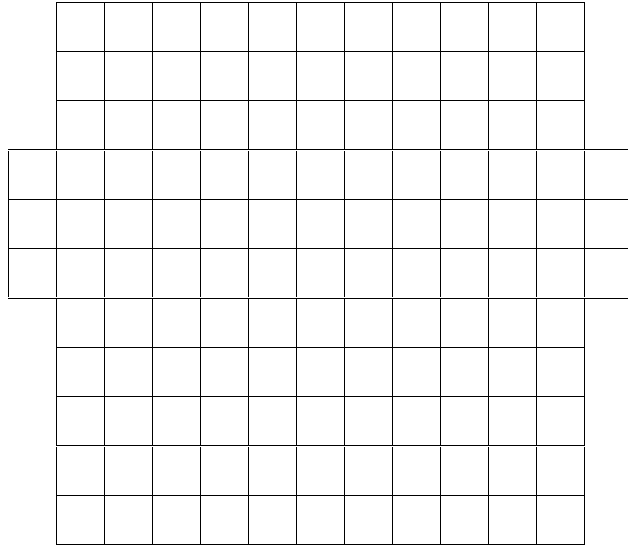


Puzzle # 153 — February 2014 "Portrait of the Artist II"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eight letters, seven are capitalized, and one is foreign) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Four across words and four down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those eight letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a two-word phrase related to six unclued words hidden in the grid.*



Across

1. Mom's beginning to trade nuts for pigs
2. Act wise in the amount you take
3. Women, say, find it hard to decide
4. Operator embraces muse
5. Lad wins heart of aged spirit
6. Outcome, lacking heat capacity, plus energy, will be without force
7. The old men of an Arab country
8. Mix iron with sulfur to get colophony
9. Gold and aluminum for the mouth
10. Attractiveness of wager about gold you initiated
11. Contemptuous of southern island having no leader left
12. Frighten Al with weapon
13. Velociraptor's gotten places
14. Angry about Charlie's rating
15. A hallucinatory experience in stripes
16. Father in talk taking one time-out
17. Something inclined to talk about men
18. John Ellery's middle name
19. Disperse treats laced with a bit of chocolate
20. Koala moving around tree
21. Monk taking one from instrument maker
22. Foolish, wild Annie
23. Stroke gently after removing a plant
24. Understood: "leave town"
25. Look lively for king
26. Prelate departed with raised spirits

Down

1. Silent about nag breaking bottle
2. Holy one in time becomes father for child
3. Prevent state initiation of taxation
4. Left primate with large part of collar
5. Cheap seats surrounding building projection
6. Ma's toy
7. Flat design by Earl
8. Hardy heroine holds rare lock
9. Clan's leader, before collapse of realm, is more at peace
10. Inadequacy of ineffectual edict about France and Italy
11. Cook's fricassée is very popular
12. Grenoble's inner city
13. Positive about Ecuador being safe
14. Astor deciphered Latin palindromic square
15. Jalopy's speed after beginning to cruise
16. In time to come, harried Walter's wife will leave
17. Direction of minor theatricals
18. Pouch found in Rosaceae
19. Growth of young artist started as a painter
20. Bahnhof rathskeller's a place where college guys hang out
21. Italian family of wine stewards
22. A ringer for Ellis
23. Failing regime making one error become apparent
24. Marsupial uterus has a temperature
25. False pride about nothing is a stretch

*Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.