**Strokes of Color**

Hello Everyone!

I wanted to thank you all for attending my demonstration and workshop hosted by the PSNC. What a treat to be able to share my techniques at such a beautiful venue, with such a talented group of artists! I cannot wait to make a trip to paint at the Gardens in the future! As promised, I finished my painting from the demonstration and included it in this email for to see. I have an outline of some of the information I provided for you to add to your notes! These are things that I have learned and techniques that I experiment with. I hope you continue your journey as artists and give a try to a more expressionistic approach to art.

* You always are researching and experimenting
* Think out of the box.
* The process is as important as the final product.
* It’s a journey!!! Enjoy it!!! The struggles and the triumphs

These are the things I remind myself on my journey as an artist that I would like to share with you and hopefully it will help you on your journey!

* To try new things. Even if you don’t like to paint animals try it sometime!
* Make mistakes. You learn so much from them!
* Experimentation and playing is essential, but then from that experimenting try and do something intentional with that same technique
* It is very important to seek critical feedback. Find a mentor and or develop a relationship with your fellow artists to help with this
* It’s okay to paint the same picture in repeatedly, BUT make sure you switch something up each time (composition, color, mark making, Technique) to see if you can get a more pleasing result. Keep things you like, and switch what you don’t.
* Learn from the masters, not just your peers.
* Start fast end slow
* For me music is very important. Will change music to mood or emotion I am wanting to portray in work.
* When frustrated with your progress Take yourself on art dates….Museums, walk in nature, reading, watch a movie. This will help reinvigorate you when you are back in your studio!

I love to read, from articles in magazines to books. I will switch from reading more historical or technique-based art books to children’s books! I often find myself highlighting way too much in the books I read! Here are a few of my favorite quotes:

* + “Art after all is but an extension of language to the expression of sensations too subtle for words” Robert Henri
	+ “Every child is an artist; the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up” Pablo Picasso
	+ “I don’t have to make a tree look like a just like a tree; everybody knows what a tree looks like.” Wolf Kahn
	+ “Do you pay attention? Are you aware of your daily circumstances? What’s around you? Do you take pleasure in a bank of wildflowers along the interstate? Or are you just simply, mindlessly driving by?” Jerald Mehlberg
	+ “Life is like a movie, write your own ending. Keep believing, keep pretending” Jim Henson

AND ONE OF MY FAVORITES!!!

* + “One of the advantages of being disorganized is that one is always having surprising discoveries” A. A. Milne

Materials for working with a Brayer:

* Rubber Brayer for Printmaking. 1 ½ inch is the smallest I have been able to find.
* Water mixable oil paint. Each color will have some of its own properties.
* Types of paper that work well: Card Stock works fine! You can use colored card stock. Printmaking paper or Sanded UArt Paper. You may need to let the paint dry on the cardstock before it will take pastel on top. Newsprint Is great to practice on as well.
* Different tools to scratch, manipulate your pastel with. (back of paint brush, bamboo skewers, razor)

Pastel Innovations by Dawn Emerson is a great book to add to your library!! It is available through Artist Network and Amazon.

Happy Painting!!! Send me images of your work! I would love to see what you are creating. Thank you again for being open to try new techniques and have some fun at the easel!

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