

Here is a basic rundown on how this monthly workshop goes:

the challenges are received via email a few days before each workshop date
[also posted here Month's CHALLENGE button].

Artists will then have a month to do the project, which will be displayed and
analyzed by the group at the following month's session.

While many of these challenges have educational qualities the real learning
comes in with the analyzing *or critiquing* of not only your own work
but others as well. No one is forced to put up their work
for group comments, however it IS MANDATORY
that you partake in the discussion about each piece up for analysis.

Everyone is entitled to bring up to 2 works of art, one may be the challenge and
the other of a personal nature OR both personal
if the challenge was not a good fit for the individual.

If you have plenty of projects on the go you may not desire to do any of the
challenges but hearing constructive criticism can be extremely helpful bringing
your compositions to the finish line and upping their WOW-FACTOR
...that's what it's all about!

Student feedback has been very positive, e.g., "I never would have tried this
project on my own and am totally surprised at how much I liked it and enjoyed
the process ...I've truly been inspired and have learned a lot about myself !!"

Challenges are NOT mandatory, they are here for those who are experiencing
artistic block or feel the need to study further, developing areas of weakness or
discovering techniques and/or a new process.

A group show in our Window Art Gallery *may* be one of the challenges.
Attend one as a trial on one of the dates listed, just to see for yourself.

How this course can work for other artists,
be they sculptors, printmakers or Fibre Artists.

While I won't be able to help much in the way of techniques for mediums other
than my own mastery [acrylic paint and graphite], in my first year of college we

studied everything (including fibre) from lithography to photography, I majored in painting but I am schooled enough in the other mediums to teach them.

As we progress with our work we very often forget about such basics as the importance of a cohesive line, shape or pattern, the contrast rule or suggestions for good picture design and composition techniques, like eye-stoppers etc. etc. etc. ... studying colour and it's affects, like mood is a life long ordeal! These are the kinds of things the group can help you with. Since this is not a beginners course, I believe you already know how to handle your chosen media. It is in the decision making that you may need help, or perhaps you'd like to stretch your imagination a little more?

Interpretation of the Challenges will be up to the individual as it pertains to their chosen medium. At the moment we have all painters [watercolour, oil and acrylic] and dry media [pencil, pen, pastels, charcoal] but most of us do dabble in other things like collages, felting, quilting, sewing and so on. I love to sculpt! and sometimes work in polymer air or oven drying clay.

Some challenges like the last one, "On Your Mark..." began with drawing exercises, fast sketches however that is where all artwork comes from and if you are not doing that now and you'd like your work to improve ...go out and buy a blank paged journal and a pen (or pencil and eraser if you must) and get working on sketching out your ideas first; draw something every day and watch how the ideas begin flowing from your head ...turn your favourites into your fine art piece! And then hopefully bring it in to our group to see if you achieved your goals. If you can't make it to class, always have someone else critique for you; if that's not possible, check your work through a mirror. This will help fool your brain and you will be better able to see what is truly there, not what you think is there.

...until then, Stay Healthy, Happy & Inspired.

Debbie