



Master Art Educator Series – Presenter: Cheryl Evans kapche@aol.com

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Profiles of a Master Art Educator...is an active artist.

teachers relate best to a student if they are still learning as well

- teachers showing and creating their own artwork display and demonstrate the creative spirit
- the teacher as an active artist builds relationships with students and increases trust and relevance
- practicing artists/teachers introduce the artist's lifestyle as a career choice – causing students to be proud to be involved in the arts
- practicing artists/teachers stay on the cutting edge of new materials and trends and demonstrate innovation
- builds personal experience stories to which students relate

The Challenge . . .

1. Holding on to your passion....the reason you wanted to be involved with the visual arts in the first place.
2. How do you find the time to make art after a day of working with students?
3. Melding teaching with art making

The question....

Are you an artist who also teaches?

or

Are you a teacher who also makes Art?

Tips

- * Set a New Year's goal either on January 1st or at the beginning of the school year and then write it down and **Tell People** – family, friends, students.

Example – I will enter 3 shows this year to show my work.

I will contact a former student and collaborate on art work.

I will submit work for publication (Splash – Watercolor Collection)

Why is it important to be a producing Artist?

1. It keeps you fresh. Keep a sketchbook! When you give a sketchbook assignment to your students you complete it also. (see TAEA sketchbook initiative)
(Note – never show your drawing first, always have students show theirs first to avoid intimidating them)
2. It makes you hit a deadline. Every time the students have a critique class bring a work that you have in progress and have them critique using the sticky note method. (Students write suggestions and comments on a sticky note to place on the art work.) This reinforces the concept that we are all on the same Artistic journey.
When students do this, you can see their understanding of the composition and the elements and principles of Art.

3. It feeds your creative needs. Set a specific day or time during the week to work on your own work. **Do not let the rest of the world intrude. You deserve time to be an Artist!** 30 minutes to a few precious hours is not too much to ask!

4. It gives you a break from being an art slave driver. Sign up for a summer workshop – not a curriculum session – **A real workshop!**

Check Artist magazines for sessions. Remember to save all your receipts. The workshop and the supplies are tax deductible, so is the travel, meals, housing.

Sign up for an evening drawing session – once a week, once a month. Art Leagues, Art Groups. Drawing from life – anything where you can actively practice being an Artist and hang out with other Artists.

5. It gives you credibility. Show your students that you can talk the talk and walk the walk.

Ideas to Jump start your Creativity

* 7 x 70 Project – Draw or paint for 70 minutes for 7 straight days. Variations – 40x40 Forty minutes for 40 days – the hardest thing about making art is getting started. Once you get into the studio and into your “right brain” – it is hard to stop and limit yourself to just the required minutes.

Guidelines: Any medium, any size, any style. If you skip a day....**DON'T!** Make up the time by doubling the next day. Everyone shows all 7 works the next week at a celebration!

- * Organize a Faculty Show
- * Have students organize a student Art Show – exhibit a new work. No fair showing the same piece year after year.
- * Learn a new technique or style “I am still learning” Michelangelo
- * Connect with 3 – 5 other Art Educators/Artists from around the state. Each artist selects 1 object to put in a composition. All the objects rotate to each member who keeps the objects for 3 weeks, does a drawing/painting utilizing **all** of the objects and then sends the collection of objects on to the next Artist. At the end of the rotation, all Artists meet to show all the compositions in a group.
- * Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Art Project
Send a single object to a list of Artists. They pass it on to the next Artist on the list. No rules – just work with the object in a creative way. Meet to share the artistic results. (This is a great assignment for an AP class. It fits the portfolio breadth section.

Excuses for not making Art.....That's what they are...EXCUSES!

“I'm too exhausted at the end of the day.”

“I don't have a studio.”

“I don't know what to paint, draw, sculpt...etc.”

“I haven't made any art in years. I'll wait until the summer or I retire.”

“I have a family to take care of. There's no time.”

