

Highlights



Baltimore Watercolor Society: A Mid-Atlantic Organization of Watermedia Artists

July/August 2016



President's Palette

My last article was about the origins of creativity and this month I have excerpts about creativity and procrastination and from Adam Grant, professor of management and psychology at the Wharton School:

We think of procrastination as a curse. Over 80 percent of college students are plagued by procrastination, requiring epic allnighters to finish papers and prepare for tests. Roughly 20 percent of adults report being chronic procrastinators. We can only guess how much higher the estimate would be if more of them got around to filling out the survey.

But while procrastination is a vice for productivity, I've learned — against my natural inclinations — that it's a virtue for creativity.

For years, I believed that anything worth doing was worth doing early. In graduate school I submitted my dissertation two years in advance. In college, I wrote my papers weeks early and finished my thesis four months before the due date. Psychologists have coined a term for my condition: "pre-crastination." Pre-crastination is the urge to start a task immediately and finish it as soon as possible.

A few years ago, though, one of my most creative students, Jihae Shin, questioned my expeditious habits. She told me her most original ideas came to her after she procrastinated. I challenged her to prove it. She got access to a couple of companies, surveyed people on how often they procrastinated, and asked their supervisors to rate their creativity. Procrastinators earned significantly higher creativity scores than pre-crastinators like me.

I wasn't convinced. So Jihae, now a professor at the University of Wisconsin, designed some experiments. She asked people to come up with new business ideas. Some were randomly assigned to start right away. Others were given five minutes to first play Minesweeper or Solitaire. Everyone submitted their ideas, and independent raters rated how original they were. The procrastinators' ideas were 28 percent more creative. Minesweeper is awesome, but it wasn't the driver of the effect. When people played games before being told about the task, there was no increase in creativity. It was only when they first learned about the task and then put it off that they considered more novel ideas. It turned out that procrastination encouraged divergent thinking.

Our first ideas, after all, are usually our most conventional. When you procrastinate, you're more likely to let your mind wander. That gives you a better chance of stumbling onto the unusual.

Steve Jobs procrastinated constantly, several of his collaborators have told me. Bill Clinton has been described as a "chronic procrastinator" who waits until the last minute to revise his speeches. Frank Lloyd Wright spent almost a year procrastinating on a commission, to the point that his patron drove out and insisted that he produce a drawing on the spot. It became Fallingwater, his masterpiece. Aaron Sorkin, the screenwriter behind "Steve Jobs" and "The West Wing," is known to put off writing until the last minute. When Katie Couric asked him about it, he replied, "You call it procrastination, I call it thinking."

What I discovered was that in every creative project, there are moments that require thinking more laterally and, yes, more slowly. My natural need to finish early was a way of shutting down complicating thoughts that sent me whirling in new directions. I was avoiding the pain of divergent thinking — but I was also missing out on its rewards.

Of course, procrastination can go too far. Jihae randomly assigned a third group of peo-

Upcoming Events

Delaplaine Visual Arts Center Exhibit
Frederick, MD
August 6-August 28, 2016
Reception: August 6

"The Value of Three" at Howard County Center for the Arts
Ellicott City, MD
September 2-October 14, 2016
Reception: September 16

Negative Flower Painting with Stacy Lund Levy
Howard County Center for the Arts
Ellicott City, MD
September 24, 2016

October 2016 Signature Artist Jurying
Howard County Center for the Arts
Ellicott City, MD
October 1, 2016

Iain Stewart Workshop
Hawthorn Center, Columbia, MD
October 25-28, 2016 (Registration full)

ple to wait until the last minute to begin their project. They weren't as creative either. They had to rush to implement the easiest idea instead of working out a novel one.

But if you're a procrastinator, next time you're wallowing in the dark playground of guilt and self-hatred over your failure to start a task, remember that the right kind of procrastination might make you more creative. And if you're a pre-crastinator like me, it may be worth mastering the discipline of forcing yourself to procrastinate.

So paint creatively my procrastinating friends,



Kathleen Stumpf

Member News

Laurie Goldstein-Warren's painting "Sabrina" was awarded First Place in the Northwest Watercolor Society's 76th International Open Exhibition. She also received the Best of Show Award in the Texas Watercolor Society's 67th National Exhibition for her painting "Pedicab-NYC." She will be featured in the upcoming *Splash 18* by North Light Books.

William C. Wright had a one artist show this past February at Gallery C in Raleigh, NC, and an article published in "Watercolor Artist, April 2016. His work has been accepted into the International Guild of Realism's 11th Annual International Juried Exhibition the San Diego Watercolor Society's 36th International Exhibition, and *Splash 17* from North Light Books.

J. M. Littleton is being hosted by the San Diego Watercolor Society for a workshop, August 27 & 28, and will judge their competition. She recently won the Excellence in Figure Award at the PWS International Juried Exhibition, Millersburg, PA. Littleton School of Art offers ongoing classes. www.littletonart.com, welles21@verizon.net, 410-828-1198.

Lois Wolford's painting "Busy Day in Paris" received the W.B. Rowling Memorial Award in the 2016 Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors. The show runs from August 5- October 9 in Old Forge, NY.

Rodney Cook will have an exhibition of new work at "The Back Porch Cafe" in Rehoboth Beach, DE. The show runs July 20-August 17, with a reception on July 24, 4-6pm. www.rodcook.us

Alexis Lavine has recently had paintings in several national juried watercolor exhibitions in Louisiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania and the Abstract National Exhibition in Kansas. She is also currently in Watercolor USA. Her entry in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society Exhibition won an "Award of Excellence." She was just accepted to this year's Watercolor West Exhibition and will earn her signature membership.

David Daniels will have an exhibition at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD, July 17-August 21, with an artist demo & chat on July 24, 12-3pm. www.mrwatercolor.com

Mark Kaufman had a painting accepted into the 11th Annual Philadelphia Watercolor Society show and has been granted signature membership in that Society.

Sabine Yeager's painting "The Olde Glade Creek Grist Mill" was accepted into the Philadelphia Watercolor Society (PWCS) 116th Juried Annual International Exhibition of Works on Paper at West Chester University's John H. Baker Gallery from September 6-October 15.

Faith Gaillot received Second Place at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Marbury, MD for her pen & ink drawing "Sittin' on the Tracks," and at the Biennial King George Art Show in King George County, VA she received Honorable Mention for "St. John's Episcopal Church."

Upcoming Short Programs

September 24th: Painting flowers with Stacy Lund Levy

Stacy is a very talented sculptor, watercolor illustrator, and multi-media artist. She teaches art classes at Carroll Community College and the North Carroll Senior and Community Center.

October 22nd: Sumi-e with Joan Lok

We have the privilege to be taught a Sumi-e class (also known as Chinese or Asian brush painting) by the nationally known Sumi-e artist Joan Lok. Joan's work has been featured in *The Best of Flower Painting*, *Stroke of Genius*, and *Chinese Landscape Painting Techniques for Watercolors*.

November 5th: Attaining Signature Membership

November will give you the opportunity to understand what is required to become a Signature Member. This will include composition, value, color balance, framing, matting, subject matter and more.

Announcements will be coming soon.

Opportunities

Maryland Federation of Art

Strokes of Genius
MFA Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD
Deadline: September 1
mdfedart.com

Art on the Farm Plein Air Quick Draws

Maryland Agricultural Center
Sunday, October 23, 10am-12pm
www.marylandagriculture.org

Harford Artists Association

"Pictures at an Exhibition"
Deadline: August 15
artinharford.org
E-mail Ivanfossen23@verizon.net for entry form

Semi-Annual Jurying for Signature Members

The next semi-annual juring for new Signature Members will be held on **October 1, 2016** at Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. The deadline is September 29, 2016. To view information, download from baltimorewatercolorssociety.org or send an email or letter to Sherry Morell, 800 Southerly Rd, Unit 1501; Towson, MD 21286, slmorell12@gmail.com, (443) 465-1863.

Upcoming Member Exhibits

“The Value of Three”

Howard County Center for the Arts

Ellicott City, MD

Exhibit: September 2, 2016-October 14, 2016

Deadline for entries: August 15, or until limited number is reached

Drop off: Friday, August 26, 9am-7pm or Saturday, August 27, 10am-3:30pm

Reception: September 16, 6-8pm

Pick Up: Saturday, October 15, 10am-3:30pm or Sunday, October 15, 12pm-3:30pm

Delaplaine Visual Arts Center Exhibit

Frederick, MD

Exhibit: August 6, 2016-August 28, 2016

Deadline for entries: July 25, or until limited number is reached

Drop off: Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Reception: Saturday August 6, 2016 3-5pm

Pick up: August 28, 2016

For additional exhibition details and to register please visit bws.wildapricot.org or see the June 2016 newsletter.

For any questions, contact Shirley Apple Jenkins:

443-212-5412 or 443-695-4008

shirleyajenkins@comcast.net

2016 Mid-Atlantic Report

Once again the Mid-Atlantic Exhibition was a spectacular show at the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown, MD. It all began with a contract to our juror, Joyce Hicks, and then went through the steps of publishing the prospectus, collecting entries, sending them to the juror for selection, notifying artists, receiving and installing the paintings, celebrating the reception, distributing the catalogs, and finally, taking down the show. All of this was done with the many helping hands of the volunteers who worked to make it happen. They are listed in your copy of the catalog, along with the donors who contributed our awards. When you see them, or when you purchase materials from them, thank them on behalf of BWS. There are many tasks that can be done in one day, so please sign up to be part of the process and get to know other BWS artists. In 2017 we will return to BlackRock, and Frank Eber will be our juror.

The statistics for the show are:

- 207 artists submitted 360 images
- 95 paintings were selected
- Over \$8600 was awarded in cash and merchandise to 22 artists
- Catalogs were mailed to all BWS members and those non-members who entered the exhibit
- The Art League of Germantown (plus BWS volunteers) installed the show
- BWS volunteers worked at the gallery as guides and as demonstrators on Family Fun Day

Congratulations to William Jaegar for winning the People’s Choice award for his painting “Sunrise,” based on a tally of votes submitted by visitors to the exhibition.

Photo (Right): Susan Stuller, Bronze Medal winner, and Lois Wolford, Gold medal winner, at the Mid-Atlantic reception

Remembering Hank Muma

Harold E. “Hank” Muma, who served as President of the Baltimore Watercolor Society from 1990-1992, passed away on July 2. He was 94. Harold was a retired Towson University professor and accomplished watercolor artist.

Remembering My Friend and Teacher, Hank Muma

When I first met Hank he was my Functional Anatomy Instructor at Towson State. He was teaching a summer course at 7:30 in the morning. I sat in front and wore sunglasses. I did not want him to know I was barely awake. It is not easy dissecting cats in the early morning. With a little chocolate and his excellent teaching, I was golden.

After graduating and as a faculty wife, I saw Hank at College parties and functions. He was always ready with a friendly smile and easy conversation. During this time I met his lovely wife, Nancy.

Years later I worked with Hank on the board of the Baltimore Watercolor Society. We rode to meetings together and chatted about art matters. I also had the privilege to serve as his Vice President in The Art Gallery of Fells Point. Once again Hank did the driving to our evening meetings. It was during those drives to and from the gallery that we got to share ideas about art and life.

Hank was a smart, talented, kind man with a good sense of humor. I treasure his memory.

Lois Wolford, Vice President

Painting (below) by Harold E. Muma, courtesy of Paul Muma





Baltimore Watercolor Society
 April Rimpo
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Dated Material

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Newsletter items (including ad text and fees) must be received in writing or e-mail by the 15th of the month preceding publication date.

Please send to: joanna@joannabarnum.com
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 21 Haven Avenue, Abingdon, MD 21009

Visit the BWS website at www.baltimorewatercolorssociety.org
 For member event registration and directory, go to bws.wildapricot.org

ADVERTISING RATES

Display ads are published for the benefit of the BWS member who is placing the ad at the rates below. Ads must be submitted ready to publish.

Quarter Page (3 1/2w x 4 3/4h) \$50
 Business Card (3 1/2w x 2 1/4h) \$25

BWS members may submit a 60-word announcement gratis to be listed under the heading "Members' News."

Send information and a check payable to BWS to the editor:
 Joanna Barnum (left).

In Memoriam

Lynn Gordon
 Harold E. Muma