



Living The Artistic Life

Newsletter December 2010

Welcome to the Holiday edition of " Living The Artistic Life"

It is so hard to believe another year is almost over.... what have you done to improve your artistic skills this year? Taken a workshop? Started a new medium? Joined an art group or gallery?

On the next page I have some suggestions that might help get you going on a new year of creative and artistic endeavors.

This edition has some interesting information and a fun Holiday free art lesson.

Christmas is the best time to be creative... the ideas are limitless, and easy to find and to do. [lots of magazines and websites have step by step ideas]... I have some easy painting arts and crafts holiday programs in my website store...just click on the one you want, download it and save it to your computer. Then, get together with a friend or family member, turn on the Christmas music, and make "painting it" a party!!! JUST do it! You can cook , wash dishes, or watch T.V. later...

Have the **Happiest of Holidays and Best Wishes**
Jamie Carter



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www.artlessonswithjamie.com

Be sure and read my blogs!

Meet My Art Student Kim Keys: Who Is Crazy About Christmas

I think I have met my match when it comes to someone who is as CRAZY about Christmas and all its fun decorations...

Kim Keys is a student who wants to paint Christmas all year round and I do not blame her a bit.... what makes you smile more than a snowman or santa? How about putting Christmas Trees in every room Kim does... and makes it a HABIT! Good for her.

Kim's personality sparkles with the same Holly Jolly Spirit. as her Christmas Trees and Home. Fairly new to painting, Kim is getting better every week and is not just a paint in class student. SHE works at it at home and it shows. Her newest challenge is painting with acrylics on wood. This can be a frustrating medium because it darkens when it dries, and is more transparent than you think. Acrylics are one of the most challenging painting mediums because they dry too fast to blend ...[like you can with oils,] so you have to learn how to glaze, build up. float color and use other means to achieve the soft look that you see in her painting of the nativity shown . Not to be intimidated or discouraged, Kim practiced 'til she got it right!



Art Student Kim Keys.... who enjoys Christmas on every level ... family , worship, friends, decorating, painting and crafting .



Kim Keys Nativity turned out beautifully. It is painted with acrylics on wood. Thanks Kim, for sharing it with us, .

To find color conversion charts for bottled acrylics go to

<http://www.decoart.com/cgi-bin/ColorConversion.cgi?JansenArt>

[www.decoart.com/cgi-bin/Techniques.cgi?Color Conversion](http://www.decoart.com/cgi-bin/Techniques.cgi?Color%20Conversion)

Why Not Now...

With the new year around the corner it is time to ask yourself if you are taking your creative life as seriously as you should... studies have shown that staying involved with the arts, music, playing word games ,and writing are brain cell builders... and are de- stressors in our busy world.

I have an article about the "Someday Syndrome" in my website that really struck a chord with a large number of folks.... we all procrastinate, but we will make time when forced or are motivated about doing something... Plan your artistic time in the same way you schedule your other events... take it serious, because mental well being is a serious subject. Why not start now?

IF YOU are ready to plan your artistic development ahead for 2011...Then let the suggestions I am making be more than just entertaining to read... let them become touch points and /or habits in some way....a new year means a fresh start.

1. Commit to a pursuit of mentorship... be it a teacher, art group, or internet discussion group.. join an art club.
2. Search out artists that inspire you and visit their studios or exhibits if possible. Ask for their advice and what or how they got started via letter or e-mail... they love to share, but probably not at a show or exhibit. Attend a demonstration.
3. Continue your art education. Take art lessons, or a weekend workshop. Be willing to start from scratch...do the fundamentals again...make those color charts or revisit the basic skills of drawing and/or practice brushstrokes over and over.
4. Get your friends and go to Galleries . Really LOOK at the artwork on display. Ask each other why and how you think the artist painted it. Take notes as soon as you can. Read books about artists or painting/crafting regularly....visit websites.

cont.....

Tools of the Trade...Color Conversions

When Kim started painting and planning her Nativity scene one of the hurdles she had to overcome was the fact that the instruction book called for paint colors that were no longer manufactured... a little common sense and some color research { on conversion charts} gave her the information about mixing the colors that she needed.

This ...[I can't but that color anymore] problem often happens because paint companies help promote and publish artists instructional books as long as the artists uses that companies products and brands in the lists of supplies needed to paint or make the projects in the books.

The problems start when the books are still selling long after the manufacturer has discontinued the paints and /or supplies mentioned and used.

Marketing says you need to create new and improved products often so that customers will keep coming back to buy your newest products.. [Also decorating colors change and the older colors may not be up to date with the trends.] Does anybody use dusty rose anymore? Probably not..

New and updated products are great , but frustrating for students who still have some books that they like to use. I suggest that you learn color mixing theory so that you can get close to the color shown in the older books.

Stick to the basic color wheel when learning to mix colors. Then if the instructions call for "bugle boy blue" and you can't find it... you will be able to match it by mixing a similar color to the one shown in the book you are using for your project/painting.

For information on color mixing ,tints, tones, and shades go to www.artlessonswithjamie.com newsletter archives and open

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"I've never had a lesson in my life" is not a badge of honor-
Look for opportunities to expand and grow your skills and knowledge.

Below is a list of Yahoo Art Groups and Websites to help you. Join in, sign up, and enjoy your "I'm Gonna DO IT NOW" new year resolution for a lifetime.

Yahoo groups: Jamiecarteram @yahoogroups.com A discussion group for art students to "Show and Tell"

"ArtGroupsDFW" <moderator@artgroupsdfw.com this one has a TON of art shows, galleries, etc. Lists all Art Groups and Clubs in Northeast Texas and gallery shows and exhibits...

Creative websites and newsletters... www.decorativepainters.org If you like to know all the news about tole and decorative painting this is the premier site.

Creative Home Arts Club" <club_news@creativehomeartsclub.messages3.com> newsletter sign up that always has good crafting ideas.

Art Lessons In Paris: I teach drawing and painting at Hobby Lobby e mail me at jamiecarteram@yahoo.com for more information...go to the website www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com for announcements about weekend retreats and workshops... one is coming up in Feb. Watch for the information there.. and all the artists expo's and decorative painting conventions you can attend.

Your Free Art Lesson For The Sunday Painter...

In The Meadow We Can Build A Snowman...

Well by now you have probably received some great looking Christmas cards.. and being an artistic type have maybe wondered "how" those artists get so much animation into their cute snowmen, Santas, etc.

This lesson will show you how easy it is to go from drawing a regular ole' snowman ..as usual.. to one that looks animated and has on colorful clothes.. Grab a set of washable markers, a good piece of watercolor paper...canson or d'arches in notebook paper size, say around an 8x10...a pencil, eraser, a small pastel in grey (optional), a fine line Sharpie black marker, a small round brush #4 or 5, and you can learn

How to BUILD a Snowman step by step Paint along with me...



In The Meadow We Can Build A Snowman...

Step 1... Draw a snowman with three ovals each one a little larger than the one above it. This is the usual way we think about drawing one.

Step 2. now look at the example and notice the dotted lines that are in the head... this curved angle on the top of the scarf gives the idea that his head is looking upward... Copy what you see

Step 3 Now draw a "stick figure with in the snowman... by doing this you begin to give a feeling that the arms and legs are moving.. and are animated. Notice that none of the lines are straight..but curved.

Step4... you are still using your pencil at this point... add his clothes. This is easy to do... just go out beyond the stick figure lines and repeat the lines...ad his hat and feet, and hands. Notice again that lines at the neck. end of the sleeves, and top of the boots are all curved lines.. that gives the feeling of "rounded" arms and legs... if you did a straight line across it would "kill" the look of animation. Take your fine line marker and redraw all the lines ,DO NOT DRAW THE STICK FIGURE WITH INK... YOU ARE NOW READY TO ERASE THAT ... and the original balls you started with..

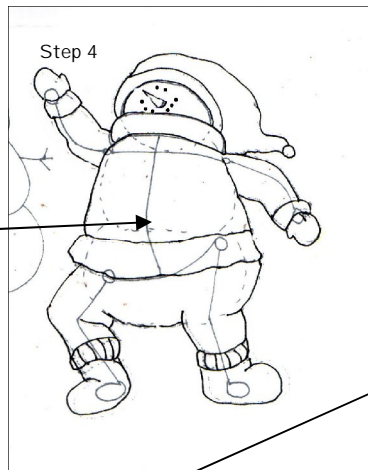
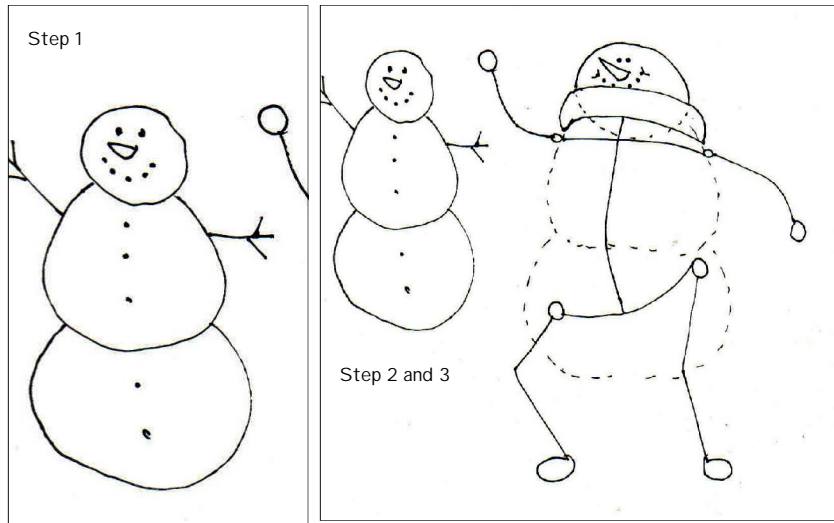
Step 5 Another idea might be to transfer your drawing onto a fresh sheet of paper... you can do this by "blacking" the back of your original paper with the grey pastel chalk... then using it like carbon paper to transfer the drawing onto the new paper.

After your lines are transferred and inked.. we are ready to color our snowman I used washable markers for this.

Just use the side of the point and sketch-mark the color ... do not fill it all the way in... leave some white areas in the middles of areas.. this will create a sense of roundedness when you wash the marker with just a damp not drippy brush ... put your brush down in the lighter areas and mop...go back and forth ... towards the edges. Take your brush and Dip, blot, and then wash

I do not try to wet very small details I just let the marker stay untouched

Step 6.. This is what it looked like after I washed the color a little.. If it gets blotchy and you have some prismapencils ... go over the colors with them this will help even out the color. Add any little decorative details and



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Add Decorative details

Have a Very Merry Christmas