



from the president

California Watercolor Association

"Don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it." – Unknown

"Unknown" must have been looking over my shoulder several times in my past and will probably be looking over my shoulder in the future. I am trying very hard not to allow "Unknown" to look over my shoulder in the present!

We've all been in this position and not just while painting. We may be struggling through a book or a movie. Maybe a sewing or crochet project. Gardening... cooking... the list goes on and on.

Step back and ask yourself, is this a mistake? If no, finish your project. Congratulations! If yes, STOP! It's OK to stop. Congratulations!

We really need to give ourselves permission to stop, reevaluate and decide which way to go. Remember, you can always flip that paper over, take the stitches out or unravel the yarn.

Don't limit yourself by clinging to a "mistake." Don't put more time, effort, paint, thread, yarn, gravy into the mistake. The mistake will just get bigger. You can do something else... you can learn from it!

Maybe, while you're working on something and you're feeling that whatever you are working on is a mistake, put it aside. Put it out-of-sight. Do something else. Then revisit and make a decision. If it is not a mistake, finish it. If it is a mistake, figure out why. Maybe you just don't have the "tools" in your "toolbox" to correct it yet. You may have to do some research to figure out what is needed to "fix" the mistake. Don't despair, take your mind off of the project and in the middle of the night or when you least expect it, an answer will come to you! I know... I've been there!



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