



From the President California Watercolor Association

“Don’t Blend In” *SWENSON*

“Don’t Blend In”

It resonates in my mind...

Think about everything in your life whether it is art, music, poetry or the flowers planted in your garden, the scarf you tie around your neck, your hair color.

What?

Why?

I believe as soon as we are old enough to start developing our personalities “don’t blend in” comes into play. As babies we have a loud cry to gain attention. As a toddler we become really great at chucking those lima beans at the nearest adult.

As young children, if allowed to get ready for school by ourselves, we wear very interesting outfits. As teenagers, if our parents are open-minded, we may sport exciting hair colors or styles. These traits often continue until we are ready for a “real” job, then we are expected to “blend in” with our co-workers. Blend in means the same attire as everyone else, the same hair styles, the same speech...you get the point. We become conditioned to “blend in.” We are not supposed to rock the boat. We are supposed to conform. The people in charge have always placed restrictions on others in order to control...everything including art.

Then, the new employee with a visible tattoo walks into the office. OMG! A tattoo! I remember this moment so vividly after reading Brenda’s article. It started me thinking along the lines of how restrictive we become always trying to “blend in.”

I wonder as I often do about how much we have lost to every facet of our lives because we are supposed to “blend in.” We crush creativity and end up with mediocrity. Who cares if that person has their nose pierced? Who cares if their hair is green? Who cares if they’re wearing pants instead of a dress? What does any of that have to do with intelligence and creativity?

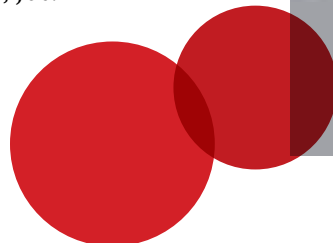
While we’re off for the holiday season and approach 2020, please “don’t blend in.” Instead put your unique self into your art and your life. I can’t wait to see your art in 2020!

Our workshop registrar, Joe Tringali, sent me this article written by Brenda Swenson. Thank you, Joe.

Happy Holidays to All

Carol Husslein

CWA President



Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Don't Blend In

Last weekend I visited three exhibits: the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West and California Art Club. I was humbled and awe struck. It left me thinking, how can I stand out in a world where skill and originality is unparalleled to another time in history?

The next day I drove to Ventura to visit family. I traveled along the old 118 through Moorpark. I've driven this road hundreds of times. The drive takes a little longer but I enjoy the view. I like seeing what crops are growing in the field, produce stands and flowers. I was treated to large fields of bright orange marigolds. It's stunning to see a field of bright orange. To my surprise in the middle of the field was a single sunflower standing alone...it took my breathe away.



It got me thinking. There's lots of clones and copy cats in the art world. Our job is to be the best at showing the world who we are. So how do I stand out in a field?

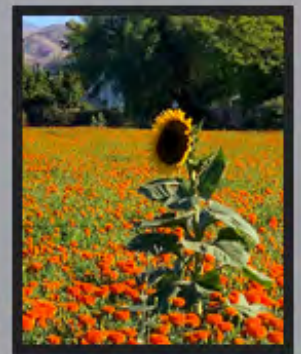
- *Focus on my own work*
 - *Build skills*
 - *Be myself*
 - *Paint what I know*
 - *Find subjects that make my heart sing... share that with the world.*
- and Don't Blend In!*

*Happy Painting!
Brenda*

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Posted by Brenda Swenson at 12:18 PM 18 comments

Labels: attitude



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