



from the president California Watercolor Association

“Perfection is the Enemy of Finished” – Unknown

Inspiration strikes!

You gather your art supplies around you.

You work and work...drawing and redrawing...
painting and repainting.

The final result... nothing!

You’ve worked and reworked your idea to death and either became frustrated with the end “unresult” or doubted your inspiration was worthy of painting. You’re among greatness when you do that. Many artists who are considered masters did this all the time. With new scientific processes, analysts have scrutinized works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Degas finding many changes made by the artist before the “final” version. But wait! Some of them were NEVER finished! Michelangelo and Degas were famous for abandoning works.

What am I trying to point out to you?

Many times I’ve heard our January Guest Artist, David Savellano, say “put your brushes down and step away from your painting.” Do just that. Stop. Walk away. Keep your painting fresh, especially watercolor. Give it time. Maybe you’re scrutinizing your work too closely. Put your painting away and bring it out another day.

Remember, perfection is the enemy...

Carol Husslein

CWA President



Edmondo and Thérèse Morbilli by Edgar Degas,
French, 1834-1917, c. 1865, oil on canvas, Chester Dale Collection

“He was also able to delay finishing paintings, reworking them until they met his exacting standards. Many times Degas retrieved works he had already delivered so that he could perfect them. Some he never completed.”

Excerpt from the Overview
at the National Gallery of Art
[tiny.cc/2ki01y](https://www.nga.gov/education/overview/2019/01/2019-01-01-tiny-cc-2ki01y)