

Don't let fear of failing stop you from trying

This is the third in a series of art lessons by artist David Messing. Messing has taught art for eight years and operates his own store, Art Store and More, 18774 Middlebelt in Livonia. If you have questions, write Messing c/o Observer Newspapers, 23232 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024.

By David Messing
Special Writer

Let's suppose that this series of articles inspired you into trying to draw, or has brought new life to your abilities of long ago. And say your pencil drawings were so good that people asked for your artwork or wanted to purchase them.

Believe me, this can happen because pencil drawings can range from sketchy to photographic. Pencil drawings are not only "framable" pictures for pleasure, but very useful in commercial art. So should this success be a road that reaches far, to many other media and forms of expression? Or will this success become a wall around you limiting you to only one medium?

I'm mentioning this early in the series because it is surprising how many people will experience relative success in one or two media and for fear of failing never try any other.

This also goes for the subjects you choose. If you have many beautiful still life drawings in pastel, are you only

Artifacts

be a still life, pastel artist, for fear of failing in pen and ink rendering of animals? It seems the more people admire the "works" you've already done the greater the tendency is for the "road" to become a "wall."

IT IS very similar to a performer. When he or she performs, it is in public, and the fear of public failure is always with them. Now that fear keeps them sharp and their overcoming of that fear makes them successful. At least you have the privacy of your own home wherein you may fail or succeed.

So remember you can't enjoy being successful unless you occasionally fail.

If I had any sense at all, the fear of failing would keep me off the golf course, entirely. But there is always a chance that I might do well on a particular course or even a particular hole. I am very good at driving the golf cart around, so I have no fears there. But a dream come true is to tee off at the first hole with a crowd of people behind, waiting to follow. With palms sweating I often say to my golf partner, Bob, I can't believe I paid money to do this. But the thrill of success

tempered by the possibility of failure fascinates me.

OUR CLASS list of lessons, covers about forty different techniques and every medium. My students first year should cover most on the list. Those that do well in most everything are usually knocked right off their stool when they fail at something. With arms limp and head drooped, they drift out after the lesson muttering, something like my golf phrase, or "I never want to try that again."

The students that often struggle with the lessons every once in a while have a tremendous success in a particular technique. Beaming with pride, they bounce out of the store chirping "that is my favorite technique." Win or lose they come back a week later just like me. Bob and I tee off at 3 p.m. Friday.

So, have no fear as you lay down your pencil and pick up a vine charcoal. In the next Artifacts I will be covering drawing with pastels.

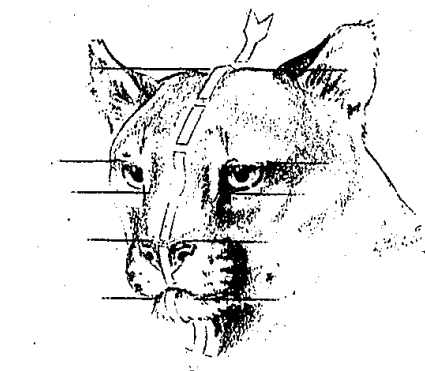
QUESTION: Many of my friends and relatives want me to draw pictures for them, but I don't think they want to pay anything. It takes too much of my time and I really wouldn't know how to go about pricing my work.

ANSWER: Set a minimum of \$20 or \$25. Then when someone says "I should let you draw a picture of my poodle." You can say "sure I'd love to. But I do

need to get paid for my time," so it would be a minimum of \$20 (or whatever). Of course it would be more for a painting. This eases the situation considerably. If the person asking never intended to pay you, he or she will never get around to bringing you the picture of their poodle. They may even be slightly impressed that you are now getting paid for your art work. If the person figured on paying something, then \$20 or \$25 shouldn't shake them up. And if they intended on paying more, they might say "Oh of course, I had planned on \$50 (or whatever)."

QUESTION: I have a hard time with animal features, especially on a three quarter view of a mountain lion I am working on.

ANSWER: You're not alone. We have framed detailed drawings brought into our store that were terribly out of alignment. My solution may sound too simple but it works. The features of the face are fixed in a certain relationship and do not move. So no matter what position the head is in, the features stay the same. So the middle of the forehead must run between the eyes and down the center of the nose. The middle of the nose points to the middle of the mouth, and the chin is centered under the middle of the muzzle. Also, watch the horizontal alignment of the features.



Artist Messing advises that no matter what position the head is in, the features stay the same. The middle of the forehead must run between the eyes and down the center of the nose.

exhibitions

● OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Saturday, June 25 — "Art in the Pines" continues through Sunday with a juried show of works by more than 100 artists from Michigan and Ohio, food and live entertainment. There will be ethnic dancers from a variety of countries as well as square dance groups. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

● ROBERT L. KIDD ASSOCIATES

Sculpture by Todd Slaughter continues through Saturday, July 23. The artist works in steel and resin. He is currently associate professor of sculpture at the Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, Ohio and he recently had a one-man exhibition in Washington, D.C. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

● VENTURE GALLERY

Paintings and ceramics by Richard Deutsch continue through July 9. Hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday until 9 p.m., 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village.

● OAKLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Oil paintings, landscapes, houses, figures, and still lifes by Corinne Gignac are on display through June in the upper and lower lobbies, courtesy Oakland County Cultural Council. Open during regular business hours, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac.

● PEWABIC POTTERY

Annual student show and sale continues through July 17. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, Sunday 1-5 p.m., 10125 East Jefferson, Detroit.

● SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY

Friday, June 17 — New sculpture by Lynda Benglis will continue through July. She is an innovative, contemporary artist who's shown at this gallery before. This time her work is in metal. Reception to meet the artist 4-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

● PAINT CREEK CENTER

Saturday, June 18 — "Emerging Artists" is the name of the show, which features works by John Eldon, paintings; Laurie Hirsch, photography; Martin Melody, sculpture; Carrie Nixon, drawing; and Julie Rette, painting. Opening reception 6-8 p.m. Saturday, 407 Pine, Rochester.

● HABATAT GALLERIES

Saturday, June 18 — Recent glass sculptures and glass plate intagli prints by Harvey Littleton, considered the "father of the contemporary glass movement." He will be at the 8 p.m. opening Saturday. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, Friday 9 p.m., 28235 Southfield, Lathrup Village.

● ARNOLD KLEIN GALLERY

Saturday, June 18 — "The Prints of War" continues at the gallery through July 23. Among the great 19th-century artists represented in this unusual show are Bellange, Charlet, Raffet and Goya. Those from this century whose works are in the show include Von der Dore, Maerzel, Barbier, Virginia and Mobilia. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 4250 N. Woodward, Royal Oak.

● BIRMINGHAM-BLOOMFIELD ART ASSOCIATION

Saturday, June 18 — "Paint or Sculpt," a joint show of the Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and Birmingham Sculptors Guild, will continue through July 14. Opening reception 5-4 p.m. Saturday, 1914 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.

● YAW GALLERY

Garments from various parts of Africa and Indonesia will be on display through July 18, 550 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

● UNIVERSITY ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN GUILD

Recent pastels by U-M graduate Robin Kandel of Bloomfield Hills will continue on exhibit to Sept. 19. She moved to California to work and teach, so this may be her last show in this area — at least for a while. University Club, First Floor, Michigan Union, Ann Arbor.

● ROBERT L. KIDD ASSOCIATES

Sculpture by John Chamberlain, whose work for the McNamara Building plaza in downtown Detroit, is now on the Wayne campus. Continues through June 18. Automobile parts are the materials for this artist, who does wall reliefs as well as three-dimensional pieces. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

● SAGINAW ART MUSEUM

Sculptures and drawings by Heromim Zmljowski, Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate and Pontiac resident, continue through June 26. Some of the large sculptures are in the garden. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1128 N. Michigan, Saginaw.

● FEIGENSON GALLERY

"Three Painters: Three Cities" focuses on works by artists from Detroit, Chicago and New York. John Chamberlain represents Detroit, Susanne Dorems, Chicago and Nicholas Maffei, New York. Continues through July 2. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 310 Fisher Building, Detroit.

Art in glass by Blair Reed will continue in Jacobson's Store for the Home, Birmingham, through June 18. Reed, a Royal Oak resident, uses the intaglio method of hand carving to create a true three-dimensional image. Many of his works have an illuminated base to further heighten the effect. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday and Friday until 9 p.m.

● HILL GALLERY
Sculpture by Joseph Wesner, 1980 Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate, continues through June 25. Wesner's work is a metaphor for a philosophical statement that speaks to current issues as well as historical ones. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 163 Townsend, Birmingham.

● DETROIT FOCUS
An exhibit titled "Oil Silverman Selects" puts the well-known Southfield collector into a different role, that of show curator. Featured are works by six Michigan artists: Cay Bahmiller, David Barr, James Duffy Jr., Keith Jennison-Johnson, Lester Johnson and Charles Klein. Regular hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Show continues through June 25, 743 Beaubien, Detroit.

● CAID
Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit. CAID, is holding an exhibit of Robert Furr, 110 Madison, Detroit, which runs through June 26. Called, "The Demise of Opulence and the Death of Art," it includes Artist's Speak Night, 7-9 p.m. June 17.

● OAKLAND COUNTY GALLERY
"Works with Paper" by Eileen Aboulafia and Mary Beard-Detroit continue through the month. This show is just one of the many possibilities for both work in various other media. Open during regular business hours in the Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

● HOWARD NORDLUND GALLERY
Recent large abstracts by Nordlund are on display through the month. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 6-9 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, 340 E. Maple, Birmingham.

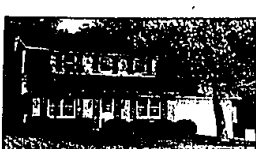
● CIVIC CENTER GALLERY
Watercolors by Dorothy Albert will be on display through June. Southfield Parks and Recreation Department, 8000 Evergreen, Southfield.



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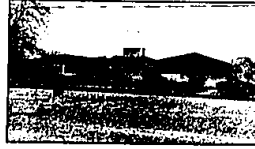
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CONTEMPORARY FLAIR highlights freshly decorated Quad-level in Heritage Trails Sub. 4 bedrooms, fenced yard with privacy patio, walk to swim-tennis club. 847-8100. \$72,900.

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