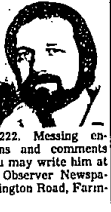


Good maintenance preserves art tools

This is another lesson on art and drawing by special columnist David Messing. He has taught for ten years and operates an art store, Art Store and More, 16338 Middlebell, Livonia, 422-6311, 255 N. Main Street, Plymouth, 455-1222. Messing encourages questions and comments from readers. You may write him at his store or c/o Observer Newspapers, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington, MI 48024.



By David Messing
special writer

"Maintenance: to keep in repair, to continue."

In one way or the other, everything requires maintenance. As a matter of fact, maintenance is the light at the end of my tunnel of dying. When I have lost all the weight I want to lose I'll go on "maintenance."

artifacts

I am about 15 pounds from my goal weight, and I know that this week I will lose at least three pounds.

Why? Because I've been sandbagging. You see, each week I have weighed in with my shoes on, and I think that Thursday morning will find me barefoot on the scales. I wonder how much socks weigh?

I feel like such a sneak, but this week I have been bad. I am now familiar with the "Weight Watcher" lingo, i.e. bread exchange, vegetable exchange, protein exchange. I really do, however, miss the Oreos exchange, fudge exchange and the peanut butter cup exchange that I grew up with.

OH, GREAT. Here I am writing this article and my boys left their bags of gummy worms right out in front of me. Everyone is in bed and it's just me and those dumb gummy worms. Hey, I'm tired, a little sugar might perk me up.

right? I'll just sneak one . . . umm . . . oh yes.

Talk about your gourmet candy. I just remembered; the boys always audit their gummy worms.

I'll be in trouble unless I eat one out of each bag.

Lorraine! H-E-L-P! I need you. I wish there was a weight watchers hot line I could call, like 1-800-FAT-FOLKS!

Maybe foods taste better to artists. After all, we're sensitive to things like color, shape and texture. Therefore, I didn't cheat this week. I just "artistically appreciated" a lot of good stuff.

Since maintenance also means "to repair," I'll try to get my diet together before the big weigh-in. Just to be sure I still show a loss maybe I'll wear shorts, get a haircut and wear a sleeveless T-shirt.

I'm not sure about it being more difficult for artists to maintain their diets, but I am sure that it is very difficult for artists to maintain their supplies.

I just sort of inherited some art supplies. So far, in my life, I have received a pipe wrench from one grandpa, a yardstick from the other grandpa, and now some art supplies. All of which boosts my net worth about \$1.49.

WHAT PROMPTED this article, however, was a large can containing probably 35 brushes. I actually got excited when I saw they were all good, name brushes. But as I lifted one to look at the hair all 35 rose with it. They were all welded together in a solid disk of petrified something or other.

All art supplies need some form of maintenance, even an eraser. I was at the art store finishing a commercial job for one of my customers. The artwork was clean but I have a habit of giving the work a once over before I spray it with a fixative. The kneaded eraser I grabbed had a shaving of brown colored pencil shavings in it. To my dismay, my unnecessary cleanup produced a three inch "w" right across my finished piece.

To guard against this disaster always keep one clean kneaded eraser wrapped in plastic or an envelope in your art bin. Carbon or charcoal pencils, conte pencils and even 4B through

9B graphite pencils should be taken out of your art bin so that they are not jostled around too much. Since they are very soft they are easily cracked inside the wood covering. This is one of the reasons the lead continues to break while you attempt to sharpen the pencil.

TOPS ON the list of poorly maintained art tools would have to be technical pens. There ought to be a relief fund for abused technical pens.

They are shook, dropped, pushed, pinned and even spit on. When you imagine the inner workings of them you begin to appreciate them. Technical pen ink is thin and opaque. Thought a maze of channels the ink is issued out of a little metal sleeve whose diameter is as small as a human hair. So, of course, it requires maintenance. Constant use is the best thing possible for a technical pen. My favorite pen and point is Alvin's reform pen No. 4x0. For the artist these pens are easier to handle since they can be held at an angle when being used. Most other pens require that they be held straight up. My 4x0 lasted me so long that the plastic under the clip was worn.

Whoops. I mean worn. I better get those gummy worms off the table.

Every technical pen sold begs the new owner to clean them and usually in five languages tells them how.

Numero uno on the least maintained list is the airbrush. Pasche lists me as an area repair man, and, oh, the things I've seen.

STRANGE AS it may seem the worst offenders are at opposite extremes.

Often artists never disassemble their airbrush for cleaning, and thus gradually every moving part becomes encrusted with paint.

Others carelessly tear down their airbrush as if in a speed contest, losing springs, screws and attachable parts in general. Using a clean airbrush with all the accessories attached is truly a joy!

Art supplies are like most everything in life, the more you own the more you must maintain.

exhibitions

- GALLERY 22**
Thursday, Aug. 15 — Recent works by Paul Maxwell, Max Papart, Harold Altman, Nanci Closson and Russell Klix are on display through Sept. 15. Hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m. and Saturday until 5 p.m., 22 E. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills.
- PONTIAC ART CENTER**
Saturday, Aug. 17 — "Mexico As Seen By Her Children/Mexico Visto Por Sus Niños," from the Smithsonian, is on display through Sept. 10, 47 Williams, Pontiac.
- SHeldon ROSS GALLERY**
Recent acquisitions include collages and drawings by Bearden, LeCorbusier, Grosz, Kollwitz and Schwitters. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 450 Martin, Birmingham.
- SUMMIT PLACE**
Tuesday, Aug. 20 — Photography show including works by area amateurs and professionals as well as a traveling exhibit from the Professional Photographers of America and the 1985 Eastman Kodak scholastic award dinners and a display from the Brooks Institute of Photography. The mall at Telegraph and Elizabeth Lake, Waterford Township, is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.
- YAW GALLERY**
First National Invitational Jewelry Show includes works by 16 artists from all over. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 550 N. Woodward, Birmingham.
- CADE GALLERY**
There's a palette full of good local artists in the first show of this gallery. Sergio di Giusti, Diane Postula, George Hircik, Carrie Nixon and Betty Woodward-Bosley — along with other area favorites. Continues through Aug. 28. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 214 W. Sixth, Royal Oak.
- DUKE GALLERY**
Art Nouveau and Art Deco pieces in ceramic and glass as well as a collection of chandeliers are on display. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, until 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and until 5 p.m. Saturday, 185 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
- HILL GALLERY**
Summer show of drawings and sculpture by Roberto Corraza, Graham Nickson, Harvey Qortzman, Ed Ralney, Richard Stankiewicz, Ernst Trawogger and examples of American folk art are on display through Sept. 4. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 163 Townsend, Birmingham.
- RUBINER GALLERY**
Group show - Works in all media: gallery artists Larry Zox, Susan Tunick, Marjorie Hecht, Carol Sutton, Marjann Harman, Vicki Brett, Russell Thayer, William House, Debra Hecht, Glen Michaels and many more. Continues through Sept. 17. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, until 5 p.m. Saturday, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.
- WDIV GALLERY**
Works by Eliezer Aboulafia, Lola A. Sonnenschein, Nancy Thayer, Greta Weekley and Judith West are on display through August. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 550 W. Lafayette, Detroit.
- COMMUNITY ARTS GALLERY**
"Alma Prints IV" are prints selected in the fourth statewide print competition sponsored by Alma College. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekdays. Wayne State University Campus.
- FIRST FEDERAL OF MICHIGAN**
Watercolors by Julie Dawson of Birmingham are on display in the lobby showcase of the main office, Woodward at Michigan, Detroit through the month. Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and until 4 p.m. Saturday.
- BLOOMFIELD FINE ARTS**
"Art Around the World" features works from many countries by contemporary and old master painters. Continues through August. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 280 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
- DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**
New paintings by Mary Celestino are on display in the Sales and Rental Gallery through Aug. 25. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
- GALLERY BIRMINGHAM**
New selection of local art includes handmade paper by Linda Golden, collage by Susan Thomas, Sharon Thiemann and Sophia Rivkin, serigraphs by Diane Zeeb and watercolors by Marilyn Derwenskus and Jean-Marie McKnight. International artists include Gail, Erte, Romero and Alvar, 223 S. Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
- TOWN CENTER GALLERY**
During August the gallery is showing regulars including Agam, Harwell, Schurr, Naitkin, Papart, Rizzi, Tobiasse and others. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 3000 Town Center, Suite 45, Southfield.
- YAW GALLERY**
Artists now featured are Falk Burger, 18k gold jewelry, and Douglas Ferguson, new works in chain mail. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 550 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
- DULANY'S GALLERY**
"Hulan and Crickel Culture in Dynastic China" features rare decorative and symbolic pieces dating to the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-908). Continues through August, 183 Oakland, Birmingham.
- HOOPERMAN GALLERY**
"The Best of Summer," includes jewelry, paintings, blown glass and works of handmade paper, wood and ceramic. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 155 S. Bates, Birmingham.
- PHYLLIS KRAUSE GALLERY**
Hand-painted silks in yardage lengths by Wieslawa Koper of Lodz, Poland are on display. The artist has her masters degree in art from a university in her native country. Also, among stichery from the Hill Tribes of Thailand, beaded necklaces from Nagaland, puppets from Burma and Thailand, Sepik River and African carvings and saddle bags and salt bags from Afghanistan and Morocco are on display. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 29 W. Lawrence, Pontiac.
- KOCHIPILLI GALLERY**
Summer group show includes new works by gallery regulars — Bensen, Blockman, Culling, Piet, Levine, Gordin, Marfel and Jordan. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 588 N. Woodward Ave., Birmingham.
- SHOWCASE DUGLASS**
Handcrafted stained glass boxes incorporating unusual shells, Brazilian, agate, precious stones and other materials are on display. The exhibit is in Restaurant Duglass, 2928 Southfield, Southfield. For luncheon and dinner reservations, call 424-9244. The exhibit is open to the public.
- HABATAT GALLERIES**
Works in glass by Ricky Bernstein, John Littleton and Kate Vogel are on display. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, until 9 p.m. Friday, 2823 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village.
- DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS**
"Automobile and Culture — Detroit Style" continues through Sept. 2 as the premiere exhibit of the museum's centennial year. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.



FARMINGTON HILLS COLONIAL. Neatly kept 3 bedroom home with finished rec room and full kitchen. Backs to wooded area, central air, family room with fireplace and 2 car garage. \$78,000. 477-1111.



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