

The art of following through at all levels

DIANE, YOU look great!" I said. "Gee, I haven't seen you for several months. Did you lose a few pounds?" I asked. "Well," she said, "I want to thank you for helping me lose weight."

I am sure I had a puzzled look on my face because she followed with "You know your article... the one about you (turning 40). Don't you remember? You said you couldn't help turning 40, but you could help turning fat and 40."

I blushed and mumbled, "Er, um, yeah, I remember," while hiking up my pants and pulling down my bulky knit sweater. "You know," she followed, "that is what I said to myself every time I got hungry. And it worked. So I owe it all to you, Thanks."

Now that was so sweet and nice of her to thank me. But that is not why I blushed. The reason is that after my determination to not turn fat and 40... I went on to gain 10 pounds. Yes, you read it right — gain 10 pounds. Some follow-through, huh?

BUT I CAN follow through in art! The basic elements of my artistic follow-through principles are:

1. A good idea or subject.



artifacts
David Messing

2. The technical skill to rightly represent the idea or subject.

3. The presentation of the well-executed idea or subject.

The lack of any one of these three will result as a flaw in your follow-through. A good idea rendered poorly is no better than a poor idea rendered well. Even a good idea rendered well is halted if it is poorly presented.

So first off, I would like to briefly hit some of the top 10 road blocks on your highway to successful follow-through.

In watercolor, the easiest way to stifle your follow-through is to do too much. Over-painting or scrubbing in watercolor causes the beautiful bleeds to flatten out into boring shapes of solid color.

NEW STUDENTS in watercolor should "play" with bleeds or "wet in wet" techniques until they feel

comfortable. Try with one brush or just wet the area you wish to color. Then with another brush full of color touch into the wet area. Enjoy the bleed and flow of color and resist adding in more color until the bleed of color has stopped.

Most new students just keep brushing or scrubbing the area and end up with a flat color. In pastels I tell my students that the first road block to their follow-through is that of over bleeding. I think there is something therapeutic about rubbing our fingers on pastels. Maybe it goes back to when we used to rub the satin ribbon on our "high-ribs" or "blanksies."

Whatever the reason, most students, if not warned, will rub their pastel pictures so much that the details are lost under a misty cloud of multicolored dust. It may help produce a better pastel rendering if you

do not blend with your fingers as much and simply use the different colors of pastels to rub into each other and therefore, blend with each other.

THIS TECHNIQUE in pastel will produce rich colors and relatively clear images. Charcoals and graphite renderings are usually flat because they do not span the gamut of grays to black. If your charcoal is not black enough, then try using soft compressed charcoal to produce rich blacks and emphasize the grays. Likewise in graphite, use softer leads like 8B.

Pen and ink shortcomings are usually due to lines that are not fine enough. Even in some pen and ink "learn-to-draw" books, it looks like the artist should be able to pull it out of a technical pen. There are plenty of times I use quill tips and dip them in black magic ink. But for most of my realistic pen and ink, I prefer the regularity of a good technical pen.

For beginning pen and ink, you should have a "2-by-0-inch" and "4-by-0-inch" and work your drawing no larger than 11-by-14 inches. Air brushing has plenty of opportunities to stumble. One common goal is

over-spraying your frisket or template. So much so that you see the light line of the outer limits of your template misted across your artwork.

Another common shortcoming is when you have a large dot or "grainy" spray pattern. This is always caused by either too heavy a consistency of paint or too little air to rightly atomize the paint. A dirty tip may cause a similar grainy spray.

ONE LAST WARNING: When peeling frisket, be sure you peel up all you planned to. Because frisket is transparent, it is very common to not see some little section of frisket. Then when that overlooked piece is painted, it begins to show up. To better see your frisket, tip the illustration board so that the light reflects off the surface of the frisket.

In gouache or opaque watercolor at its best, I feel, keep your paint thin and start out with a transparent wash effect, then move towards opacity. The biggest drawback to realistic coloring is that students do not carefully study the many shades and tints even in solid colors. Every color is affected by its surrounding colors and light source or reflected

light from other objects

Many first-time scratch board seem to find their way into the circular life. Perhaps the fate of many could be changed if only the artists kept their lines tiny and accurate, and in addition learn how to sharpen a scratchpoint drawing which may require from three to 10 sharpenings.

The presentation is the final step in follow-through. Presentation merely means how you present or show your work. All artwork should at least be matted for protection from the fingerprints of adoring viewers. Of course, artwork is even better presented when framed.

There is just something about the clean edge of a mat, the make of the frame molding and the flatness of the glass that truly finishes a piece of artwork. So use the "follow-through principle" in all you do. Even in a diet... I guess.

David Messing has been an art teacher for the past 10 years. He is also the owner of the Art Store and More in Livonia. He welcomes comments and questions from readers. Direct them to him in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

briefly speaking

● MOTIVATIONAL AUTHOR TO SPEAK

Livonia author Stanley Mann will be guest speaker at the 7:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12 of the Friends of the Livonia Public Library at the Carl Sandburg branch, 30400 Seven Mile Road.

Mann is a certified psychiatric social worker, family therapist, transactional analyst, hypnotist, marriage counselor and teacher for over 15 years at the VA Mental Health Clinic in Allen Park and in private practice in Livonia.

He will discuss his recent book, "Triggers: A New Approach to Self-Motivation." The meeting is open to the public.

● NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nature photography by Novist Robert Fritz will be on display at Carl Sandburg and Alfred Noble libraries in Livonia during the month of January. All of the photography will be in color.

● ADULT ED ART EXHIBIT

An adult education art exhibit will be displayed at Madonna College,

Livonia beginning Sunday, Jan. 24 to Friday, Feb. 19 in the Exhibit Gallery.

The show will consist of approximately 100 oil paintings and watercolors from students attending the adult education classes. Admission is free. There will be an opening reception from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

● MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Marygrove College Music Department will hold a series of auditions for three music scholarships leading to a music degree beginning in the 1988 academic year.

Selected students in voice, organ, piano, or guitar will be awarded either one \$1,000 scholarship renewable over a four-year period, or one of two \$500 scholarships, also renewable over four years.

Auditions will be held in the Liberal Arts Building on campus, 8425 W. McNichols, at Wyoming, Feb. 20, March 17 and May 14. Applications should be submitted at least two weeks before the desired audition date. For more information, call Sue Vanderbeck, 862-8000, Ext. 316 or Elaine Grover, at Ext. 354.

● KERTESZ PHOTOGRAPHS

"Kertesz's Paris: City of Light and Shadow" an exhibition of 40 photographs by Hungarian-born photographer Andre Kertesz will be presented in Eastern Michigan University's Ford Gallery Monday, Jan. 11 through Wednesday, Feb. 3.

The photographs by Kertesz are from a Paris series, which reveal his use of light and shadow and his eye for seemingly insignificant detail to convey mood and feeling. The exhibition is under auspices of the Statewide Services of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, call 487-0465.

● PEWABIC EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition highlighting recent work by Virginia Cartwright of Pasadena, Calif., Jeff Oestrich of Taylor Falls, Minn., and Mark Pharis, Houston, Minn. will be on display at Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson, Detroit, from Jan. 15 through Feb. 13.

Also at this time, altered wheel thrown, functional work by Canadian artist Sarah Coote, Halifax, Nova Scotia, will be featured in the Stratton Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to which the public is invited. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, call Jeff Gould at 822-0954.

● CALLIGRAPHIC REFLECTIONS

The annual juried exhibit of the Michigan Association of Calligraphers will be held Jan. 8-30 in the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association gallery, 1516 Cranbrook Road, Birmingham. An opening reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8. For more information, call 644-0886.

● ASIAN ART

"Asian Art" will be offered at Madonna College in Livonia from 4-7 p.m. Thursdays Jan. 7 through April 21. The course will provide an understanding of the arts of Asia. For more information, call 451-5188.

● MADONNA EXHIBIT

A fine art and commercial art exhibit by G. Panyard will be on display at Madonna College, Livonia, through Monday, Jan. 18 in the Exhibit Gallery in the library wing. The event is open to the public free of charge. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 4-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 591-7548.

● YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

Auditions will be held at Madonna College, Livonia on Jan. 16-17 for the 1988 Young Artist Competition sponsored by Oakway Symphony. Competition includes all instrumental, piano and vocal students. To compete, instrumental and piano students must not have reached the age of 25 years before Feb. 28, 1988; with vocal students, they must not have reached the age of 30 before the same date.

To obtain rules of competition and application forms, write to Oakway Symphony, 18549 Levan Road, Livonia 48152 or call 471-7049. Application deadline is Dec. 31.

● 'THE MARKET PRESENTS'

The Detroit Artists Market will open a month-long exhibition, "The Market Presents," tomorrow with the work of two senior southeast Michigan artists, Al Hinton and Jern Plum. Concurrent with the Hinton-Plum exhibit is the presentation of four emerging women artists in the Upper Gallery: Lynne Gabreath, Deborah Casmer, Ruth Goldfaden and Marian Mudie.

Hinton is a professor of art at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. His mixed media pieces involve the use of anodized titanium as collage elements affixed to sheet aluminum.

Plum, educated in Michigan (Wayne State University and Cranbrook Academy of Art) and abroad, is a painter of still life with carefully selected forms. His palette is primarily one of secondary and tertiary colors, which result in quiet but powerful statements. He teaches at Michigan State University and was a 1987 Michigan Arts Foundation awardee.

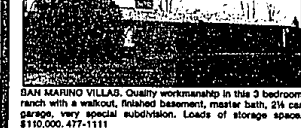
The Detroit Artists Market is at 1452 Randolph Street.



WALK TO DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON from this four bedroom vintage home. Natural fireplace in living room, formal dining room, family room and basement. Show and sell \$124,900. 477-1111



TREES AND PRIVACY. Larger lot backing to golf course surrounds this 4 bedroom colonial in prime North Farmington area. A full drive, Central Air, 2 1/2 baths. Flexible occupancy. \$157,500. 477-1111



BACK BAYING VILLAGE. Quality workmanship in this 3 bedroom ranch with a walkout, finished basement, master bath, 2 1/2 car garage, very special subdivision. Loads of storage space. \$110,000. 477-1111



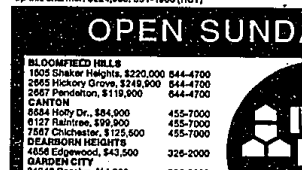
BRICK RANCH WITH FULL BASEMENT. Decadent, near downtown Farmington. Fantastic kitchen-dining room with built-in cabinets and buffet. First floor laundry. Attached garage. In-ground Gunite pool. \$97,500. 477-1111



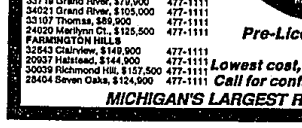
SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE. Four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial. Add to that — a 3 car garage, finished basement and family room with fireplace. Freshly decorated. Near Mercy Hill. \$117,200. 477-1111



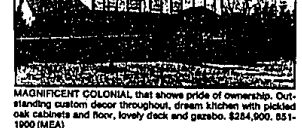
MAGNIFICENT COLONIAL with many extras. In mint condition. 4 bedroom, extensive cave moldings, large bright kitchen, built-in dining in den, all decor in neutral tones, private rear yard, professionally landscaped. Transfer forces owner to give up this charmer. \$224,000. 851-1900 (JUT)



DEARBOHN HEIGHTS 4056 Edgewood, \$43,500 326-2000



FARMINGTON 31949 Roslyn, \$44,900 326-2000



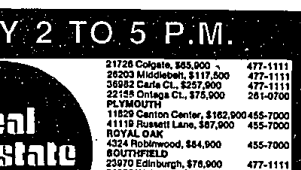
MAGNIFICENT COLONIAL that shows pride of ownership. Outstanding custom decor throughout, green kitchen with built-in oak cabinets and floor, lovely deck and gazebo. \$224,000. 851-1900 (MEA)



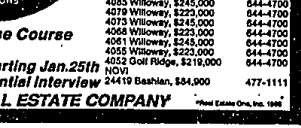
NEW TUDORI 4 bedroom, garden room, family room with brick fireplace and den in neutral tones. 2 1/2 baths to select floor, room. Oak in basement. Master bath has bid-shower and double sinks. Set back in Hunt Club subdivision. Quality through \$154,900. 851-1900 (JUT)



FIRST TIME OFFERED. This lovely Dutch Colonial has 4 bedrooms with library and was updated four years ago with no section of ceiling. Located in the N. Farmington school district. 851-1900 (JUT)



ROYAL OAK 4324 Robinson, \$44,900 455-7000



CONDOMINIUMS 25070 Edinburg, \$78,000 477-1111



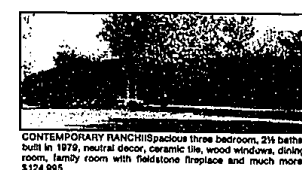
IMMACULATE RANCH 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, natural fireplace in living room, dining room, woodshed porch, part finished basement, 1 1/2 car garage, patio, fenced in yard. \$45,000. 858-2200



LOVELY 3 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH Well taken care of, move in condition, nothing to do. Fenced in yard, fireplace in family room. Oak in basement. Extra storage. Newer furnace. \$95,000. 858-2200



3 & 4 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH Beautiful corner lot, 2 1/2 baths, 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 car attached garage, newly decorated. Master Bath, 2 fireplaces, French door in dining room. Fruit tree in back yard. Finished Basement. \$99,000. 555-2300



CONTEMPORARY RANCH Spacious three bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, built in 1972, neutral decor, ceramic tile wood windows, dining room, family room with fireplace and much more. \$124,995



LYON TOWNSHIP 5 bedroom Ranch with first floor laundry, 10x15 cozy family room with natural fireplace and beam ceiling. Neutral carpet and neutral decor. 1/2 acre prime lot with fenced yard. \$44,900. 348-6430



LOVELY 3 BEDROOM BRICK RANCH Well taken care of, move in condition, nothing to do. Fenced in yard, fireplace in family room. Oak in basement. Extra storage. Newer furnace. \$95,000. 858-2200



BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY GETTING A CHOP SHOT TO PUBLISHERS Conveniently located Farmington Hills 3 bedroom ranch with full basement and separate dining room, fireplace in living room. Original owners have given this lovely home lots of TLC. \$153,900. 881-6700