

Understanding Painting- What is the Solution?

Online art book



Magunta Dayakar

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My opinions in this pdf book are posted on www.wetcanvas.com, 'Composition & Design forum'. Thanks to the forum for giving me an opportunity to explore myself.

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Understanding Painting- What is the Solution?

The feed back I received from the last few days through forums ,e-mails and personal messages, confirmed to me,that my thinking is right. There are lot of artists who are supporting me and my views about understanding process of painting.

Once again I am making it clear to all of you who agreed with me and who have not, I am continuing this philosophy without rest. Many of the artists, who are ready to give their life to understand painting deeply, are in great confusion. They are learning the techniques, but some how they are not able to apply that techniques in their works. They are in continuous frustration. They are not able to understand why their paintings are not coming well. Where the problem lies? Is any body thinking about this seriously? What is the solution? That's what I am questioning seriously.

Learning the techniques won't make your paintings good. Developing your senses, strengthening your

instincts, understanding life can make you an artist. Becoming artist means responding to the pain and pleasure of life. Once you become like this, then technical knowledge or rules or whatever you call it, will help you to express or communicate on canvas. This philosophy applies not only in painting, it applies in every field.

This is what I want to say. If you want to make tools from iron, first you have to heat it, then it will become soft after that we are able to make tools out of it. Becoming an artist is also like that. Every great person in this world was made like this. Why don't we too become great?

All the great artists left great wealth of knowledge to us. We have to find a way to understand them properly. And we should also leave some of our experiences to the future generation. That's our duty. For that we have to be creative. Creativity is always demands individuality. Originality. To be original we need to think. We should not follow blindly.



Silent Observation.

Observation is the key to drawing. What is drawing? Drawing is nothing but using only a line and a curve. You should acquire the ability of using this line and curve in different shapes and sizes. That means you have to understand the shapes and sizes of the things. To know about them you have to learn how to look at the world as an artist. This is the key. Seeing the things as an artist.

Yesterday one incident happened in my class room. One of my student copying a drawing. She is little bit confident about her ability to draw. After one hour, in middle of drawing, she understood something gone wrong. And she also understood, where the thing have gone wrong.

She draw one of the shape in the picture, little bit big. So all connected parts with that particular part gone wrong in their proportions. She lost.

I told her again, what I said previously to her..." Don't draw. Look at it. Judge heights and widths and their relations. It will come."

She started to work again. This time she began to see their heights, widths and their relations, instead of seeing the picture..

Then she got it.

I analyzed the situation to her. I asked her..." What happened In your mind in first and second attempts?"

She told me that 'in her first attempt she concentrated on the picture, how to copy it? In her second attempt, she did not bother about the

copying the picture. She concentrated only on heights and widths of the shapes and their relations'. This is she said.

Actually what happened in her mind in these two attempts?
In the first attempt she did not think of her act. She concentrated only on activity. 'Act' and 'Activity' are two different things. 'Act' is your response for the need. 'Activity' is doing some thing just for the sake of 'Doing something' This is a mindless act. There you are not using your mind.

In 'Act' , You are thinking what you are doing. That means you are using your ' Mind '. After sometime you began to watch yourself what you are doing. That means you become a watcher for your act. You call it a ' Silent Observation " Most beautiful state of the mind. It's observing what it is doing. It is becoming a watcher. That is 'Ultimate Meditation.' Who said Art is not a meditation?. Without this state of mind, nobody can ever become an artist, whether they know this truth or not.

In my view, color, value, line, texture and everything will seek the help of Composition & Design to connect them with each other. Rhythm is the ultimate results in my view. That is the painting. That is the Art. That is the essence of life. Art and Life are one.

How to teach Painting?

How to teach Painting? A very big question!

How to learn painting? A very complex question!

To know answer for these questions, first we have to understand them.

There are thousands of books available in the market. Many workshops also. A few correspondence courses too. All these things will say, they will make you best within no time. Really is it possible?

Any art enthusiast can learn art through these things? Really are there any short cuts? Not only to painting, to any subject are there any short cuts? I don't think so.

Then what is the right way to learn or teach? It should be simple. After teaching students how to draw, teach them tonal values. Then they know how to create depth to any two dimensional thing.

Once they know it, Ask them to paint with a single color adding with black and white. Let them use the brushes on their own. Here and there guide them how to handle them? Of course, very little help you have to do.

Mixing colors ... Not a big thing. Show them how to mix and tell them how much medium they needed to use. Now explain them, all they have to do is, use the brushes like a pencil. What they did with pencil to create tonal values same they have to do with brushes. No more, No less.

Then they start. In between explain them repeatedly how to understand value? Tell them how to lighten the value or how to darken it ? Enough. They are able to create a painting with appropriate values. Of course in single color. So what? They did a painting successfully on their own. That also maintaining with values! Is it not great for a student? In reality how many so called professional artists able to maintain these values properly? O>K> Coming to the point, ..For the student maintaining values in his first painting! Great! Value, which is the key to painting! Anyway already they learned size, shape and their relations. Now they learned how to use values. That means they crossed a major step. With a little help they can achieve this giant step. Every one of my students achieved this.

What is the next step?

Let them use four or five colors. Ask them mix the colors on their own for required tones. Explain the nature of things, which they are going to paint. Guide them how to study those things? Push them to work. Do not try to impose your work style on them. Have a patience. Let them do mistakes. Discuss about those mistakes. Again stress the importance of the values. They will be used to paint. More than doing painting, they will know how to proceed on to the canvas. This is the key. By that time they will become confident. Make them to do many paintings with different color combinations from the color wheel. Of course different subjects also. In this process students can involve in painting. There will be no confusion for them.

When they crossed this, you talk with them about the Balance. Perspective. Make it simple. Do not confuse with them so many theories. If you talk theories they will get the head ache. Remember...They are not professionals like you. They want to enjoy the painting. You have to make them addict towards painting slowly like drugs. Otherwise they will run from being a painter. Leave the hard part of the rules or technique for their future practice to become a professional. By the time they know what they should learn? Then why you are taking that responsibility? You are not their employer to tell what they should do ? Leave that part for their pleasure.

Once they understood about balance, perspective, brief them about composition and design. Leave the rhythm for their understanding. 'Search' is the key. Let them search for the the things. With the understanding what they achieved already, they will be able to find what they needed.

This is the way a student can learn art without much confusion. Of course there are many other ways. But I love this way. I succeeded in this way. My students involved too emotionally in learning painting. Because they are enjoying it, they do paintings like professionals. This inspiration, this confidence can make anybody an artist, if you show them right path. Talk with them about life. Talk with them about human mind. For an artist it is an important to understand the way life moves.

Learning art is not just doing some colorful paintings. It is understanding life. If you understand life you will be able to enjoy it, even in misery. You will help others to understand this great truth. Becoming true artist means becoming a selfless person. This modern world need those persons more than any time in the history. No more to say.



On Value and Color

.....Regarding value & color I will explain a little bit of my understanding will explain it as simply as possible.

This understanding came to me From 'Johannes Itten,Andrew loomis, Edgar payne,Charles Hawthorne,John Carlson,Paul Strisik, David Leffel' and many others.I am a student of those great Masters.

About 'VALUE'

There is a room. Dimension of that room, Say it 100 square feet or some thing. You call it a space. In that space you want to put few objects, may be seven or eight. So you arranged these objects in that space. Light is the key. Without light we won't see anything in this physical world. So if you want to make your objects visible to the eye, there you need some light. O.K. We can imagine that light is coming from a window of that room. Imagine. Whats going to happen now? That light will fall in the room or in that space. Light falls also on the objects in the space. Now they are visible to us.

How they will be visible to us?

More light falls on the objects nearer to the light source. Less light falls

on the Objects which are a little bit away. Objects which are far away, almost they will be in the dark. Because light is coming only from one source, (Single source of light will be preferable, to avoid confusion) Opposite side of the objects will be in shadow (they will get reflected light). Because of this process you will see light & Shadows. You call these light & shadows technically 'Values'. This value arrangement is the key to composition.

Size of the subjects and their textures are all part of this play. This value, you call it a 'value scale'. Divide it from lightest, light to darkest, dark tones. It's better if you limit this scale to 5 - 8 values.

When you are doing a painting in black and white, experiment with these values. Let one of those values, I mean either dark or light values, dominate your picture. Otherwise confusion will arise. Make it simple. Avoid details. See them as big masses. Details will appear on their own.

Study those variations of values carefully. Which objects are getting more light, which are getting less.

Because of their textures every object will appear different. And because of their colors...

Some objects will reflect more light, some will absorb more. Study them carefully. Study them as a whole.

This is the Key. Human eye sees the things this way.

About 'COLOR as a value'

Color. Honestly I am telling, It always confuses me. Whatever I learned It still remains a mystery to me, like John Carlson 'LANDSCAPE PAINTING" book. Paul Strisik said in his 'Capturing light in oils' book. "I read Carlson book many times. But still there is some thing remains which I do not understand." I also read Carlson many times, I feel the same. I understood that nature always remains a mystery however much you may know. COLOR also like nature. In reality we are recognizing everything in this world through color only. So understanding color is always a difficult thing.

To understand color we will go with some simple process. You see color wheel. You can see this color wheel in any art book. In that wheel opposite colors are complementaries. (this is not the time for discussing about the definition of complementaries) Complementaries means they will interact with each other comfortably like an understanding couple.

Suppose if you take yellow as your predominant color, violet will be the complimentary. Then take two adjacent colors of your predominant color,

yellow; those colors will be 'yellow orange and yellow green' .Paint a picture with these combinations,you will get color harmony. If you want go one more step, take two split complementaries instead of complimentary, that means ' blue violet and Red violet'.By using these You will bring some extra energy into the picture. This extra energy will give some dynamic effect. Because they are split complementaries. You won't learn these things over night.

If you try hard to learn, over a period of time you will know. In different methods you can experiment with the wheel.

I am coming to the term 'COLOR AS A VALUE'. Here everybody feels a problem in learning stage. Of course, still I am facing it like a beginner. Because I have not grown in an environment of art. Every color is having it's own value. To understand, open a image editing software , such as Adobe Photo shop. Turn colors into grey scale. Then you know the value of each color. But before doing this enjoy the painting as if though computers do not exist. Children will do this way. That's why they will get the pleasure. Why don't we? Of course, again it's my opinion. Everybody will have their own way.

Once you experience the colors, their interactions, experiment with their color values. Of course, again its personal. I never did that way. I know

it. But I don't want to do it. I want to enjoy painting. Selling paintings is not my goal. Not that I don't need money, in reality I am not wealthy. I always lived in misery and financial problems. But most of the time, I tried to live through other ways than by selling paintings. Still I am living that way.

O.K. again coming to the matter, Study the cool and warm colors. In outdoors, shadows are always cool, In interiors its opposite. In interiors highlights will be cool. So shadows will be warm. This is not the place to explain all those things. Always use thick impasto for light areas. Because those areas you are seeing. In shadows again its opposite. Because shadows should be transparent. You are not seeing them. You are seeing the light only. Light is the mother of colors. Colors are children of light. Know this truth.

Values should not jump, except if you have a purpose. Composition, design, rhythm all are one.

Value is the key to open that wonder house. Not only value, there are many things needed to step into that beautiful house.

Every color is beautiful in given circumstances; as individual its only a pigment. To turn this pigment as light (because this is the light which

make us to feel the colors as objects) you have to live with that. I did it. But still I am groping in the dark to know them.

As for theory some colors forward and some will recede but same theories will tell you it depends upon situations. So there are no hard and fast rules. Learn them. Follow them if you want. If it won't suit you, change them. Change is the essence of truth. Truth always changes with circumstances. I believe it. I learned this truth from wise people who understood the life. Life and art are one. That's why art is precious. Precious things won't come to you cheaply. So work hard. You will become an artist. That's what I believe. I am telling what I am believing.

I am concluding this. I learned the things in a hard way. I know the struggle and agony of genuine art students. For them I have written this. If there are any misinterpretations in this, I should be excused for my innocence...

Thank you to this forum, for giving me this opportunity to understand myself.....Bye to you all.



On Rules

Hello Celeste,

I am writing this post to share my feelings with you and at the same time reaching to our wet canvas members, to give an understanding about my thinking.

Celeste, You understood me very clearly. As you said rightly I am not against the principles of Composition or rhythm. But through my personal experience what I understood is, many of the artists use this composition knowledge and rhythm instinctively rather than planning. I think this is true. Otherwise its boring. Mechanical.

Imagine...How is it possible for a person to drive a car consciously watching breaks, accelerator, gears steering and streets? Do you think anybody can drive this way? I don't think so. It looks odd. I feel the same to follow the rules of any thing, whether its a composition or Rhythm or something else. Observe ... those artist's work, who follow rules rigidly as if though written on the stone, see their work... to me they look tight, artificial. And you see so much hard work in there. This is the most worst thing. An artist work has to be seen effortless. Natural. The viewer should not feel that they are seeing a painting, which has been

done with lot of hard work. Instead of that they should feel , it is a very simple work. Artist has done it in a effortless way. That is the best work. If you use any rules strictly without spontaneity the work will lose its beauty. I understood this. Or that's my way of understanding.

And another thing.. I am not against understanding. But I am only against 'Rules'.

Any rule will obstruct your growth. You should not follow the rules blindly. Imitators will do that. One person will find the road. All the people walk on that. History will talk about the person who found the road, but not about who are walking on that.

But 'understanding' is different.

Understanding will make you to know the things about the road. How it is built, where it started, where it ends ...like this. Then you began to explore about the possibilities to travel beyond that road. This is the power of 'Understanding'.

Every bit of knowledge will help us if we use it in a right way. But that bit of knowledge must remain as a part of your understanding. You call 'this bit of knowledge' as 'Rule'. If you stick to this 'rules' whats going to happen? Imagine! Most probably ...Today we would not have been communicating with each other through Net. We would have been living in 'Stone age.'

That's what would happen to us if we stick to 'Rules'.

I practiced painting before learning any rules and principles. Once I came to know about these rules and principles all I did was make little bit of adjustments in my work. This way you will become natural. Not only in painting, in any field it will work. First be a good runner. Then do adjustments here and there , where ever you feel they are required. That is the true meaning of 'Spontaneity". How many people understand this Celeste?

No wonder...why we won't see many creators in this world in any time! All we are seeing is 'People of Intellect.'

Intellectualness, Intelligence, Creativity are three different things. Intellectualness is nothing but storing information. Intelligence is using that information to do a work properly. Intellectualness, Intelligence are part of 'Creativity'. Intellectualness and Intelligence are search tools in Creativity.

Imagine.. Where intellectualness stands in the process of Creativity? Sticking only to intellectualness is nothing but following 'Rules'. Then how do you become a 'Creator?' That's why I am against confining to 'Rules'.

Celeste, You understood me clearly. I feel it is very important to be creative than using the information strictly. Computers can store lot of information but they could not create any thing. Some people believe that if they have a good information, they are the authority on the said subject. This is very sad.

I know some of the professors. They will give you ready made answer for everything. But...they are not

able to rise any questions. Think Celeste, A person, who could not rise questions about whatever he has to do...How do you expect that he can become a creator?

Thats why what you are doing in your class room is hundred percent right. Let them get the questions. Let them search for answers. That is what you are doing in your class room. Your students will enjoy the classes. Same thing happening in my classes also. This is a simple thing. Why people won't understand?

I think these people who wants to apply rules seriously... I think they may not successful in their work. I think reason for this is, their lack of open mindedness. Or they may think they know everything under the sun.

Some super computers also know every thing or most of the things related to whatever they were fed. But they could not create any thing on their own. They need a software to respond. Most of the art critics and academicians are also like that. What is the use of the words when they are not able to show the path? Instead of showing the path they will frustrate you with their words...of course, if you are weak. I have seen a lot of such people. They hate the people who want to stand alone in the crowd. They will put every effort to drag you into the crowd.

That is their way of life.

Celeste, another important thing, what we need to think about is...”
from where these rules came?”

If some body works beautifully, based on his work analysis will start.
People analyze the reasons for ‘..why its looking good?’

From that analysis rules will be made. Ordinary people follow these rules. They are the crowd. The person who is used to living in the crowd, could not survive as an individual. Creators are individuals. What they will do? They study those beautiful works. They will absorb the reasons for their beauty. Then they will enter their own world to seek questions. Those questions are their life lines. They are their compositions. They are their Rhythm. They are every thing to them. To understand this truth we need an open mind.

But this world is not like that. This world is full of intellectual people, who are like the Encyclopedia Britannica. The best Encyclopedias sell for few hundred dollars. But can you imagine... for how much Vangogh painting can be sold? ..millions of dollars! That is creativity. As you said Creativity is spontaneous.

Rules or principles whatever it is they should be understood. They should not obstruct us. Every rule should be thrown into the air. Bring something

new, out of that air. Out of that emptiness. This is the way artists can survive. Understanding this philosophy is a very difficult thing.

I do paintings this way. I do write books this way. I am running art institutes this way. I am successful.

Celeste, there are people who can understand us. We can survive, because we are always learning. We don't need to be accepted by everybody. We are not seeking any acceptance also. But there are people with big heart, they will support us, if our cause is genuine. So our philosophy will be continue.

Thank you for your understanding about me, Celeste.

Before concluding I will narrate a small story...

A frog is living in a well. One day another frog fell into that well accidentally. The old frog in the well asked the new frog.

“ From where you came?”

“ I came from the sea.” the new frog replied.

The old frog asked curiously..” From the Sea !? ...How big is it?”

“ Very big”

The old frog jumped a little distance across the well and asked “..Is it this big?”

“ No! Its bigger.”

Again the old frog jumped some more distance in the well and asked “..This much?”

“ No...its very very big ” Replied the new frog.

This time old frog lost its patience completely. It jumped to the edge of the well and asked with anger..

” Is that this much big?”

This time the new frog did not give reply. It understood about the old frog.

‘From long time that old frog was living in that well. It is seeing every thing only through that well . It is seeing a limited space in the sky. So every thing it thinks through that perspective only.’

When the new frog understood this truth it did not speak any words.

Most of the people are like this Celeste. They are ‘ Frogs in the Well ‘ Same way there are people who are living in the sea. We need the society with this kind of people. It is our duty to built that kind of society. Once again thanks for your appreciation for my work, Celeste.



If you love your work, eventually it leads to failure! So ignore all the rules...

Last night suddenly something hit me in my inside. That is about Artist's failures. In their work. In their life also. Of course both are interconnected. If you are not successful in your work it will be difficult to earn money to fill your stomach.

So many questions arose in me. 'Why most of the artists are feeling insecure? Why they are thinking so much about technique? Whereas in other fields, people are working simply without bothering much about the rules and techniques, here why they are breaking their head on them? Instead of developing intuition why they are after techniques? Even after chasing techniques, why they are not becoming confident? Why they are always trying to prove that they are the best? If somebody won't accept their work, why they become uncertain...even after learning all the rules and techniques? Not only in art, in every field it is like that. What are the reasons for this? Recently one professional artist said these words." When somebody points out flaws in my paintings, I feel uncertainty. I want to throw my canvases, brushes and I would like to run away " Actually he is doing well. Some of his paintings are really good. Even then fear is hunting him. Why?

The reason is 'LOVE'

When you love something or somebody, what will be the first thing that is going to happen to you?

It is ... Fear!

'Whatever you love, you may lose it.'

That thought itself will create fear in you. To conquer that fear you should not be in love. Then you should be above the love. Then there won't be any fear.

Artists should be like that. They should not love their paintings. Then there won't be any mental agony. No fear. Nothing. This is the right way to become a most successful artist. Confusing! Not loving painting...becoming a successful artist! How it will be? If you don't love your paintings how do you become an artist? Not only in art, anyone can become successful in any field, if they don't love their work

Yes. It's true.

* * *

You may think, if you don't love something, you may not get fear. Because you are not going to lose anything. But how do you become successful

in a field, where you don't have any love. It's puzzling. Because you experienced till this minute, all successful persons are saying that they love their work like anything.

Is it the truth? Really these successful artists or persons are loving their work? Are they lying? Or maybe they don't know the reasons for their success?

To know the truth these questions have to be answered.

That's what I am trying to do. I am searching for the answers.

* * *

They say 'Love is Blind'. That means the person who is in love won't think about reason. He will be moved by emotions. Sometimes these emotions make him successful, but most of the times they will lead to destruction. That is love. Love is illogical.

It 's not creative also. A creative mind has to do a lot of search. In that search so much analysis is needed. Again it's logic. All analysis is linked with logic. Logic and love, both are opposite poles. Love never bothered about logic.

So, love is blind. It's a proven truth. So loving your work means you are blind. Interesting. Everybody will say " Love your work. You will become successful." How is it possible? When you are blind towards something, how do you become successful? Many artists say " we love our work. We are ready to die for it." May be! They may die! Anybody moving in darkness without some light, can enter into a dangerous path. Eventually that will lead him to death.

* * *

We have been seeing so many artists who are struggling with their paintings. Always they are having doubts about their work. They look nervous. They are seeking opinions from others about how their paintings look like. If other person says 'it's good.' Then they will be excited. If they pointed out some flaws in painting, he will get frustrated. Eventually he will be in depression.

This artist also loves his paintings deeply. Otherwise he won't be in depression. Frustration. What kind of love this is? Is it helpful to anybody?

Why this is happening?

'It's love'

Loving the work can lead to failures. Depressions. Frustrations.

Again...Why?

Already we discussed this. Love causes Fear. Love leads you reasonless actions. A man without reason, a man full of fear ,how can he achieve any thing? A mother loves her child. We love people close to us. Whatever mistakes they do, we will ignore them. If some thing happens to them because of their misdeeds we will try to protect them. Because we are loving them. In the name of love we became blind. How can a blind person know the right path?

That's why if somebody says that they love their work, it is idiocy. How can you expect an idiot to become a creator? Idiots can become successful. Success is relative. It's sheerly temporary. Any moment failure can happen. Vincent Vangogh was not successful in his life time in terms of money. But whatever he created became a great treasure to the world of art. In my view, his life is a great book to the creators. It will tell you how a human being can achieve the greatest things even in misery. That is the greatness. I don't think he loved his work. If he loved his work today we would not be talking about him. He would have been a failure like so many artists who used to paint throughout their life time

and achieve nothing. He started to learn painting in his late twenties, he died in his late thirties. During that period also, he did not paint for nearly 3- 4 years. Is it not amazing? The man who found a place in the history of art, about whom this world talks after Monalisa, that man, the great Vincent did paintings for a very very short time in his life. But in the end he became great. How he achieved it?

It is by ignoring the society. It is the key. We will struggle to be accepted by society. Why should we bother about society? How do they know what you did is right or wrong? Who are they to judge you? You have to be your own judge. You know your limits. You know your goals. Then what is the point asking somebody to judge your ability. It's meaningless. They will judge you through their perceptions. Or to their taste. Or through their experiences. When you are depending on somebody to know about you, eventually it leads to frustration. Because they say things what they feel is right.

That's why I think all great people never bothered to care others opinion about their work. That's what I understood today, in this moment, when I am typing this. A great truth revealed. Then what all those great people did for their achievement?

It is 'Understanding'

* * *

Understanding is different from love. Love is mindlessness. Understanding is mindfulness.

A difference between Mindlessness and Mindfulness. Imagine.

Two people love each other. One day they become a married couple. After some time they began to quarrel with each other. They hate each other. They may go for divorce or they may live reluctantly depending upon the cultural background of society. Why this is happening? They loved each other before marriage. After marriage they hate each other. Why this change? What is the cause for this? Lack of 'Understanding'. That is the problem.

Nobody denies their love for each other before they become a couple. Yes! It's love. All ready I say...'Love is Blind' They want each other. For what? Is it not for physical desires? Because of that desires they showed so much concern for each other. That so much concern is nothing but fear. The fear of loosing other one. Because of this fear they listened to each other. A little bit of understanding, of course..unknowingly.

Later once they become a couple, their desires are fulfilled. There is no magnetism between them. No mystery of unfulfilled desires. Now they stop listening to each other. There is no concern for other one. That's why doubts will start about each other. Eventually it leads to a psychological breakdown. Love is the reason for this. Instead of love if they understood each other, things would have been different. Same thing happening to the artists also.

They are not understanding what they are doing. They are in passion. They are in love. They think becoming a painter means money, fame,

pleasure, greatness. That's why they want to be painters quickly. Short cuts. Create your own paintings. Do life drawing. Do plein air. Do studio paintings. Find the galleries, which will sell your paintings. Go online. There are potential buyers. Acquire style. Style will sell. Learn composition. Know rhythm. Find design. Learn color, light... So many things...All these preachings or tips whatever you call it tell you, 'How to get success'. So you began to love them. Love leads to fear. Love leads to insecurity. Finally it leads to heart break.

That's why so many artists become desperate in their careers. Always doubts about their ability. Still they are unable to leave Art, because they are in love with it. What they need is not love. Understanding. Awareness of what they are doing. Then they will know where they are. Nobody will tell you what you are or what you need to do. You should be aware of those things. Then you are able to move from one step to another. Because of understanding you will be able to examine the path where you are moving. You know it fully. That is mindfulness. For such a person even failure is movement to him. Its awareness. Its understanding. When you are doing work without bothering about the end results you don't have any fear. There is nothing you are going to lose. Because you are not expecting anything.

That is understanding. That is awareness. This understanding can make you a complete person. A complete person is above success or failure. Line, texture, shape, size, value, design and composition... every

technical aspect you can learn eventually whenever you need, but not with love. They can be learnt with Awareness and Understanding.

I will conclude this with a small story....

A centipede walks with a hundred legs. A frog, who was a philosopher, saw the centipede, he looked at and watched him and became very troubled. It is so difficult to walk even with four legs, but this centipede was walking with one hundred legs ... this was a miracle! How did the centipede decide which leg to move first, and then which one next and then which one after that? And one hundred legs! So the frog stopped the centipede and asked him a question, "I am a philosopher and I am puzzled by you. A problem has arisen which I can not solve. How do you walk? How do you manage it at all? It seems impossible!"

The centipede said, " I have been walking all my life, but I have not thought about it. Now that you ask, I will think about it and then I will tell you."

For the first time thought entered the centipede's consciousness. Really, the frog was right...which leg should be moved first? The centipede stood there for a few minutes, couldn't move, wobbled, and fell down. And he said to the frog, " Please don't ask another centipede this question. I have been walking my whole life and it was never a problem, and now you have killed me completely! I cannot move. And a hundred legs to move! How can I manage? ".

About Magunta Dayakar

Magunta Dayakar, an acclaimed portrait painter, is also nationally known for his Lightscape Paintings, A successful novelist. and also he has scripted, acted and directed two feature films. People used to praise him for his style in painting and writing. But he used to say he never consciously thought of the style. He believes style evolves on its own when the artist works continuously with involvement. He is running an unique art school for children and ladies in Hyderabad, India.

