

# **CPPG January 20/20 Presentation “Tips, Tricks, and Reminders”**

## *Presentation in January 20/20 by **Dorée Voychick***

Background Professional Experience: Art Educator.K-12, Dept Chair of Art/Music, District Coordinator K-12 of the Arts and Teacher of the Year 2004 in Monroe, CT.

### **1.) You are an Artist = creating from what you “SEE” vs. what you “KNOW”**

*Artists use 2 thoughts when creating art work : what they “see” vs. what they “know”  
For example, mountains in the distance may look to be blueish in color, but we know that they are made of trees, rocks and should be brown or green in color. Artists make a decision to create these mountains blue or green to fit their meaning of their art work.  
Art is a visual medium — expressing what they see or know is how the artist creates.*

### **2.) Creating art work for your audience.**

*When you choose a subject for your art work, ask yourself “Why am I creating it ?  
Perhaps there is an emotional attachment, or you want to explore your technical skills of using colored pencils. Even if you are making a painting for someone else, you need to have a reason to connect to making this art work. This connection is important for you to create a meaningful work of art that your audience can connect with as well.  
The audience brings their own experiences when viewing your work, your technical skill, your emotional connection, and your choice of subject draws the audience in.*

### **3.) Photo references**

*Use more than 1 photo for your reference. Different views to see color, shapes and perspective. Also important to include a Black + White photo of the same image to see the Values and changes of light and dark more clearly. These photos are **only** reference....to be “Referred to” but not copied! You can make changes from the photo according to your like. You are a “painter” who creates an image using photos for technical details to remind you to decide ”what you see vx know” to make the art work.  
( I suggest to tape the photo to the back of your work when entering a judged show)*

#### 4.) Define “color” + “color theory”

*Color is defined as light spectrum refracted through atmospheric waves. The light waves are absorbed and other reflected back to our eyes. If there is “no Light” then we do not see “Colors”. We learn the names of colors from our cultural experiences and learn how to define slight hue differences between color shades, giving them names. (see attached color info from the Book : The Secret Lives of Colors by Kassia St. Clair) Sir Isaac Newton discovered how to interpret the light waves into colors and how in light, the “white” is a blend of all colors but in “paint” all colors make a dark, black. The Color Wheel came in the seventeenth century with warm and cool colors defined. In 1980, it was found that other cultures (Russian / Greek) did not have words for detailed shades of colors. That has become more of a recent (2000) definition.*

#### 5.) How to choose your colors + make your palette

*Choose your colors by selecting various pencils and match them to your photo reference of the image. This is a “Main Color” that you want to end with. So you have to look at all of your pencils to select the **lighter** colors or use your Color Chart to select those lighter colors. Lastly, choose the **darker** colors from the “Main Color”. And do not forget to include the “Complementary Color” (opposite color - warm / cool colors). Now lay these color pencils next to your paper, in order from the lightest to darkest color. Begin with the lightest and color very very light layer. Continue with the same order of light to dark - maybe you decide not to use all of them. That’s fine. Continue each layering with the same order of pencils, which will maintain the same final color.*

#### 6.) When should a painter use BLACK colored pencil ?

*Black is not a color - when you have a dark “black” area, start with a **color** first - like Indigo or Tuscan Red or Dark Green. Then add Black pencil. If you use Black by itself, the coloring is “flat” in appearance, When adding color into the black, it makes the black more rich, has depth. Painters usually mix their “darks” using Complementary Colors - by adding a warm color or cool color will create “Dark” color. Black can be added to intensify the “dark”. Remember not to use Black alone. It is not a color.*

#### 7.) How does a Judge view our colored pencil art works ?

*I have brought some of my art works that I have entered in the Judged Shows along with the Comments to share to show what the Judge was seeing in my art work.*

*Lets begin by understanding the task of what the Judge must do within a specific time - with 25 - 30 pieces of art works that must be viewed 1 hour. The judge knows immediately which work is a quality art work. But the judge must only select 1 First Ribbon so must eliminate the others. So the judge uses the "Rules of Art - Elements and Principles of art to narrow the choices. (Elements of Art = line, shape, form, space, texture, color) (Principles of Art = Balance, Pattern, Rhythm, Contrast, Emphasis, Movement, Unity ). The judge does not know the artists, does not know what the "intent" of the artist had when creating their art work. It is not an easy task.*

*Ladies, imagine shopping for a dress - you find several that are exactly what you want but you must make a choice. What is your criteria ? How do you choose? ..... you begin to be more critical of the differences to make that final choice.*

*When the Judge views an art work, he brings his own experiences, his emotional connections to the subject, and reads the title to gather information about the artist and art work. But it is still a subjective choice - the judge has a lot of experience viewing many art styles, and media as well as his own artistic work. These all combine to the decisions the judge makes on awarding Ribbons. When there are so many works that have "good composition", good drawing skill " and good values + contrast of lights and darks....the judge must narrow down the decision by critiquing Emphasis for focal point, use of Contrast and the technical use of the colored pencil tool for color. This simply means that your work is "good" but perhaps there are others that had better quality of art elements/principles AND captured the Judges attention on an emotional level.*

*In conclusion, I enter my art work for the purpose of engaging the audience to view a different perspective, a different technique that I am exploring, and I look forward to the judges comments to see if the judge chose the area that I had already decided was not a strong skill level for my work or if the judge reacted as I was hoping for if humorous.*

*Therefore, when you enter your art into a Judged Show, think about what your expectation's are going to be from the Judge. You are hoping for another opinion on your work - a more qualified opinion from someone who has viewed many types of art works in various mediums. Yes, it would be nice to have a Ribbon, but it is more important to hear what the judge writes about your work. You should already know the areas in your work where you were successful and which areas you were not. Understand that the judge approaches the job with their own art making skills - in various media - and enjoys being visually rewarded with different artists creativity of subject, skill, perspective, and use of the Colored Pencil tools.*

*Art is subjective. You are creating a work for you and you learn from your experience. Hopefully the Judge reflects this same understandings and you can continue to grow.*