

I am proud to report that the first set of classes given at the Yellowstone Artist's Retreat has gone very well and that more classes will be made available there soon. As a group we studied the four gentlemen and everyone had great success. The retreat is owned and operated by a wonderful person named Elenor Graff. Elenor is a fantastic stained glass artist and creates her own masterpieces in the same space as the classes are given. Elenor's studio is continually growing and is a one of a kind vision for the teaching of the fine arts. The Yellowstone Artist's Retreat is situated on the Yellowstone River nine miles north of the Park. The building is a newly constructed barn with full amenities. Downstairs has a pottery studio as well as a full service kitchen, restroom, den, and three bedrooms for artists studying in multi-day class situations. Upstairs has Elenor's personal studio space as well as a very generous space for studying art forms of all kinds. Elenor and her husband John have shown a true commitment to the arts in the construction of this space and everyone should support her as much as possible. The address is 946 Highway 89 South, Gardiner Montana 59030. The phone number is 406-848-9173. If you have half a chance, give Elenor a call and stop by the studio there. You will be impressed.



STUDIO BOONE

Emerson Cultural Center
111 South Grand Ave. Suite 107c

Studio Boone/BAC Gallery Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5
Call Stephen for a personal appointment

406-587-0925
www.studioboone.com
stephen@studioboone.com

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1732
Bozeman, MT 59771-1732

I have been teaching Chinese brush painting here in Bozeman for just over one year. I have met and enjoyed the company of many new friends in that time. It has been my pleasure to share my knowledge of brush painting with you. I feel that we have all grown as artists in our basic knowledge of the brush and our expectations of ourselves. I have tried to give access to a set of skills that will enable each of you to attain enlightenment.

Enlightenment

Usually this mystical word is reserved for Kung-Fu movies and such but I have felt the euphoria of enlightenment and I want all of you to share this event. Enlightenment follows frustration and lots of it. Enlightenment usually occurs in the middle of the night and forces me to rise from my bed and paint the vision in my heart. This, of course, is key. While in the classroom, we are busy worrying about the colors we have mixed, or the accuracy of our painting. We seldom are relaxed and at ease when painting. We have a very hard time "letting go". There is simply too much to absorb. This is understandable and how it should be in the class. Enlightenment is seldom felt in the classroom without study at home. This is the point of the matter.

I present to the student in the classroom the basic tools to use for further, independent exploration. Without this exploration I fear you will not become enlightened. It is necessary to continue your studies in your own home. You must have a comfortable painting environment and you must paint regularly, preferable daily. You must wrestle with the concepts presented to you in class. Loading the brush, brush strokes, fish looking for the same food, all of these ideas must be fleshed out by painting. The composition must be practiced until it can be painted from memory. When you can paint from memory, without reference and without hesitation, enlightenment is possible. I find that I paint my best when I am so completely immersed in a subject that I can paint it without conscious effort. Every decision is made without labored thought. I decide what to do next and how to do it in a split second with no hesitation or doubt. When the dreaded "mistake" is made, the enlightened artist will find that there really is no mistake. The painting begins to take its own shape and form and the artist makes critical adjustments on the spur of the moment. "Happy accidents" make for the best paintings.

In a nutshell, enlightenment for me means the complete understanding of the subject I am painting and having a painting flow from my heart and not my mind. When this occurs I have a hard time continuing with the same subject for many months.



It is as if I have given everything I have to the painting and there is nothing left. This is not a problem because I always need to move on to the next subject. In about six months I can come back to a subject, but I have much higher expectations of myself and my work.

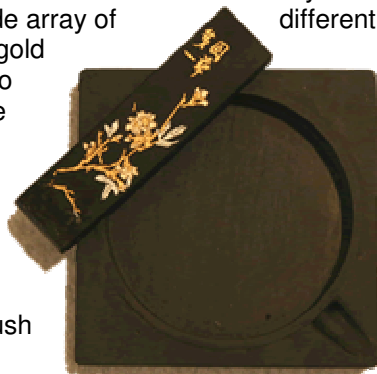
There are some specific things that you can do to make enlightenment happen. The first thing you need is a studio space. It needs to be a space that is yours to paint in at any time. You must be able to paint quickly when the feelings strikes. Next, you need to make painting a habit. Set aside an hour each day to paint. At first you may feel awkward painting on a schedule but as it becomes a habit you will look forward to your "painting time". The last thing you need is what you already have, a patient teacher who you can call when you have questions. (Please, no middle of the night calls!). I am always happy to hear from students with questions and will give what advice I can if you need it.



Have you felt enlightenment in your paintings? It is a personal journey that any of us can take if we dedicate ourselves to put in the time working for it.

The Four Treasures

The four treasures of brush painting are paper, brush, ink, and ink stone. Studio Boone has an assortment of the treasures that will enhance your painting experience. Please come to see the wide array of different papers available. Most of the colored Xuan has gold leaf on the paper itself to add a new dimension to your artwork. There are also many brushes to be perused. My favorite specialty brushes are the Mountain Horse series. I find the medium Mountain Horse to be my favorite for larger bamboo leaves. The Biff brush has become very popular and it is a great choice for versatility to compliment the kit brushes. Ink grinding is the traditional way to make ink for brush painting. There is a very meditative feeling to grinding ink. It takes about ten minutes to grind ink and it cannot be rushed. Add a few drops of water to the ink stone and merely grind the ink stick into the stone and create ink as thick or thin as you want. Studio Boone carries three different sizes of ink stone and two different grades of grinding ink.



Accessories & Signature Cards

In addition to the four treasures, Studio Boone carries some popular accessories (and great holiday gift ideas) such as brush hangers, blending plates, paper carriers, brush rolls, bamboo paper cutters, paperweights, mood seals, instructional and inspirational books, bamboo cups, and more.



Every Chinese Artist authenticates their masterpieces with a Signature & Name Seal. Have your name translated into its Chinese characters to add to your work. Order one for yourself or as a gift to share with a friend! (Please allow 2 weeks for delivery).



I will be at the Studio in the afternoon on Friday, December 22nd, and all day Saturday, December 23rd to answer any questions about our products

or provide product demonstrations.

China Dream Journey 2007

For nearly 20 years my teacher & mentor, Dr. Ning Yeh, has led groups through China, to see her through the eyes of an artist. This year I will be joining Ning on the 2-week main tour. This tour includes brush painting at the Great Wall, a boat cruise on the Li River, learning how rice paper is made, and visiting a brush making factory and many other unique adventures.

Main Tour (May 22nd 2007 - June 1st 2007): Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Yangshuo, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai

Extension Tour (May 30th 2007 - June 11th 2007): Shanghai, Lijiang, Zhongdian (Shangri-La), Tibet

Please visit www.chinadreamjourney.com to see this year's complete & detailed Dream Journey itinerary or view photos of past Dream Journey tours. I have a copy of the Dream Journey 2006 Video (two 45 min videos) available for viewing at my Studio by appointment or by check-out. If you are interested in joining us on this unique opportunity reservations and deposits are now being accepted by Ning Yeh China Tours for the 2007 tours. Please call me at 587-0925 for more information.