

Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

Vol. II No. 12 Dec., 2012

Remember the Artists...

As the holiday season approaches I often look at this month as a shopping nightmare. I'm not actually a "Grinch" but I don't particularly like to spend my time shopping for the seasonal gifts. In fact I rather abhor it. But, I do enjoy giving gifts and try to get just the right one for everyone on my list. And that is the crux of my December dilemma... I always wait too long and then have to fight the crowds to find just that perfect gift.

My wife, bless her, always has a list ready to go in June, and she makes many crafted items for her friends and family. I really admire that in her, because she uses her talents to make the perfect item for all her (seems like) hundreds of friends! She's amazing that way!

Because I'm an artist, some might think I should do what Karen does... but making gifts for every individual on my Christmas list would probably eat desperately into my art time in studio, so instead I find time around December 20th and journey out to shop for gifts. **So I got to thinking...**

...why don't most people recognize the importance of buying ART for Christmas gifts? Not just mine, (which would be nice) but the work of many artists and craftspersons? Is it strictly the cost? Or don't they think about artists and craftspeople as victims of a depressed economy too? Most artists I know work hard all year long to produce quality products that they ultimately HOPE they can sell. Few I know can support themselves on their art alone, but every sale is a validation of their efforts, if for nothing more than someone LIKES what they have done! That's an important boost to every artist.

So this December, I ask you to remember the artists and craftspeople who work throughout the year perfecting their vision and skills for you. Instead of the obvious trip to the mall or the online superstore to buy that item Made in China that eats batteries, or is manufactured using child labor and built in obsolescence, why not consider visiting a local gallery or artist's studio and see what gift of lasting value might be there... art is an investment that appreciates as time goes on. Just as art comes in many styles, forms and colors...it also comes in many price ranges. Think about it! Many galleries and artists are flexible about paying for art, and often will help you budget for an expensive item over a period of time. Why wouldn't they? *(Even my dentist just set me up with a special payment plan for my ridiculously expensive new tooth implant!)*



Above: A life drawing group I helped to organize at the Vermont Institute of Contemporary Art in Chester, VT. The weekly workshop is open to local artists during the winter. Notice that the VTica gallery itself not only provides a beautiful venue for drawing, but offers a bounty of affordable contemporary artwork to appreciative customers who feel as I do about supporting the arts.