

B. Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

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When Life Gets in the Way

It doesn't happen often, but sometimes the drive to create is forced to take a detour. For the past few months, you have probably noticed the absence of my monthly news. This is because I had to recognize that my "to do" list for non-art projects was getting too long and impossible to ignore. (Interior trim for new windows in the house • Build a much needed pantry for our kitchen • Finish a furniture project • Raise the roof of our garage for more storage... and more.) But, why not hire someone to do it...? Good question!!!

I come from a heritage of do-it-yourselfers and there is a lot of pride as well as pleasure that comes from having skills and tools to do work for yourself. Sometimes I think it a curse to "waste" my time on mundane projects when I could be creating in the studio, but the reality is that processes that I use to solve practical problems pass back and forth between my non-art projects and my art. This is an important aspect of the way I think and see new possibilities. Everything I do, be it artwork, building construction or cabinetry, is initiated from my studio workshop or workspace. And it's hard to ignore the simple economic advantage of having the skills. Many say "time is money" ... and it was not without a sense of trepidation that I took a 3 month "sabbatical" to concentrate on these nagging projects.

Shortly, however, I will return to the studio with my "to do" list completed and feeling much lighter with the monkey off my back.

And best of all, not actually working with art materials in the studio doesn't mean that my conceptual curiosity hasn't been actively engaged in the future.

Today I am attempting to say goodbye to my overabundant treasure of art related magazines taking up bookshelf space in my office. Like many artists, I seem to have an aversion to throwing things away that "might" come in handy some day in the future. But, the future is NOW... so, in order to make room for my *other collection* of art books I have decided to use this newsletter to offer my magazine hoard, or parts of it, to anyone who would find a worthwhile use for them, or perhaps be interested in managing their sale and and sharing the profits. I'd welcome your suggestions for preserving what has become a huge compendium of art for the last 50 years.

The collection includes magazines dating back to the 1960's through the present. There are many complete yearly subscription copies of the following: **Art in America, Art News, Art Forum, Arts Magazine, Art International, American Artist, Sculpture, Contemporanea, Professional Artist, Step by Step Graphics, Graphis, Woodsmith, and Fine Woodworking.** Some of the annual collections may have some missing copies, but the largest collections are issues of **Art News, Art in America and Art Forum.** All magazines have been shelved and are in good condition. (Some of the earliest Art in America issues and Art News/Annuals are actually hard bound!)

Meanwhile... Art is starting to happen in my studio again, even if it is not entirely my own. Proudly displayed on my bulletin boards the work of Charlie Blanchette, my 4½ year old grandson, can now be seen!

Also, the space is now a weekly meeting place for Life Drawing sessions again. On Thursday evenings our drawing group meets for 3 hours drawing and/or painting from posed models. Though limited to about a dozen artists per session, our group is larger, requiring signups on a first come, first served basis each Sunday.



Charlie has a show at Studio 8

Life Drawing begins again in Walpole...(studio panorama from Thursday night)

