

Tip #41

Painting for a Cause



Did you ever stop to think that you have something wonderful and unique to offer the world? You do. It's your art, and your talent.

There are so many crying needs in the world today ... cancer or AIDS research (not to mention dozens of

other medical research projects), the victims of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, drought or famine; projects like Habitat for Humanity or your local food bank; battered women's shelters; senior citizens' centers; endangered species and other environmental needs like wetland preservation and wildlife habitat; historic preservation of a home, building, or battlefield; the arts-you name it, there is something to care about, and someplace to try to make a *difference*.

My recent article in Watercolor Magic called "Painting Through The Pain" covered this in more detail, but I think it is important enough to share here, as well.

And make no mistake, you CAN help. Pick the one or ones you care about most, and find a way.

Donate your work to a community auction like the Optimists' Club, or offer to make prints or cards to benefit your favorite nature center. Organizations like Ducks Unlimited have art shows, usually with auctions to raise money for habitat restoration.

Amazingly, the most I was ever able to help, in an auction situation, was by offering a gift certificate - I offered to paint whatever the high bidder wanted, to benefit the Good Samaritan Center in my town. I was astounded at how much that little slip of paper raised!

Give your time to teach kids about art - look around where you live. Your town may have a local equivalent of Excelsior Springs' Good Samaritan Center, which provides a Kids Club to give the young ones something to do after school as well as teaching them creativity. Kids Club Director Roberta Hammer says "Creative expression is such an important part of children's concept of self, so this is a very valuable experience for them - especially if they haven't been introduced to their own creativity before."

You may choose to give your time to a group like the Watkins Mill Division of Youth Services camp, here in Missouri. Draw the kids, draw WITH the kids - it will mean a lot to them. Donate a piece to hang in their common room, or help them to paint a mural on the walls.

A number of artists I know have found ways to donate part or all of the proceeds from the sale of a piece of art through eBay's charitable donation option. eBay makes it easy, the option to give is right on the form when you do a listing. Make art specifically FOR a cause, or donate something you have on hand.



Art 41-1

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You can get involved with the annual Pink Auctions on eBay, which benefit the Susan B. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer Research. This is one of the works I made for that effort, in memory of my friend Mimi.

Donate your excess art supplies to a senior citizens' center, children's hospital, church, school, or local arts groups. You CAN make a difference. So can art.

Check out my Watercolor Online classes at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/watercolor_online/ for more information.

You'll find my artwork on new products in my CafePress store at http://www.cafepress.com/cathy_johnson and original fine art auctions on eBay at <http://members.ebay.com/aboutme/cathyjohnsonart>.

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