

Tip #86

Keeping an Art Blog

Most of us know what a blog is, by now - it's short for web log, a way of keeping a journal online. They can be private, friends-only, or public, it's your choice. There are all types of blogs, those kept by writers, cancer survivors, cooking and nutrition fans, photographers, travelers, musicians, politicians, and just folk who want to keep in touch with friends and family.



There are any number of reasons for an artist to keep a blog. For one thing, it's a wonderful way to share back and forth with other creative people - many of us live in areas where there aren't many artists, and communication with others who understand WHY we do what we do is nourishing. It's good to share daily sketching or painting, projects you set for yourself, exchanges, challenges, a learning or a teaching situation.

You can explore a theme, like my friend Laura Frankstone, who set herself a theme for a solid year, a different one each month, then the next year explored the concept of water, throughout the year. It was fascinating to travel along with her, and she and her readers and fans all benefitted from her exercise -- and her generous sharing of herself and her talents.

86-1, Paris kiosk

So for the next several art tips, we'll explore different types of blogs you may be interested in. First up, of course, is my friend Laura, who responded with such interesting answers I decided to expand the original concept beyond a single tip!



Laura wrote:

"It's hard to remember now, but four years ago, when I started my blog, it wasn't the all-pervasive phenomenon it's become. You could then, as I did, imagine that in blogging your creative intentions and projects, you were only making a semi-public display of yourself! Public enough so that you'd be embarrassed if you lapsed, private enough so that you were really only holding your thoughts in place while you formulated and pursued your creative aspirations.

"As we all know now, there's no privacy on the internet. If you blog it, they will come, and that's mostly a good and enriching thing! Since I started Laurelines, I've made so many friends (including Kate, one of my dearest ones!) and been inspired by work of artists all over the world, work I'd never have had access to in the old 3D space-and-time world.

86-2, Point Lobos, CA, part of Laura's water series



Art 86-2

"See, blogging is not only an act of putting your self and your work out THERE, it's also about taking the world IN. I struggle every day to keep a balance between my private artistic journey, which requires solitude and the room to lose my way periodically, and the public, freewheeling, boisterous fairground that is the cyber art world."

* If you've enjoyed this glimpse into the blogging artists' world, stick around - there's more to come! And if you just want to find out what this is all about and how to start a blog of your own, you might want to start with *Blogging For Dummies* (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470230177?ie=UTF8&tag=httpcathyjohi-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0470230177>) or explore the power of blogging with *Blogging Heroes: Interviews with 30 of the World's Top Bloggers* (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0470197390?ie=UTF8&tag=httpcathyjohi-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0470197390>). Alyson Standfield's *I'd Rather Be in the Studio!* (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0974272582?ie=UTF8&tag=httpcathyjohi-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0974272582>), which we've discussed before on my OWN blog, in my "Marketing your Work" series, also covers blogging for artists ... it's great stuff.

And of course, please feel free to visit my original blog at <http://katequicksilvr.livejournal.com/> or my new gallery blog at <http://cathyjohnsonart.blogspot.com/>!

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