



November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## **Taking A Painting Workshop / Don't Know How to Draw?**

Over the years I have attended as well as held numerous painting workshops and on many occasions students would ask if the workshop included drawing instructions. Most painting workshops unless they specify drawing instructions, will not be included as part of the lesson. Many students want to learn to paint and figure the drawing end of things will fall into place only to end up being disappointed because they cannot get a good drawing and without a good drawing the painting is doomed to fail.

I know of many beginning artists as well as famous artists who cannot draw or prefer to skip the drawing part and begin creating the painting as they have the painting end of things down pat. To some, painting and drawing comes naturally and for others who cannot draw freehand they either trace their scenes with tracing paper or use an artograph projector. Do keep in mind when entering an art competition; the use of artograph projectors, (*any kind of projector*) and/or the tracing of your subject matter (*unless it is your own previously drawn sketch*) will not be accepted.

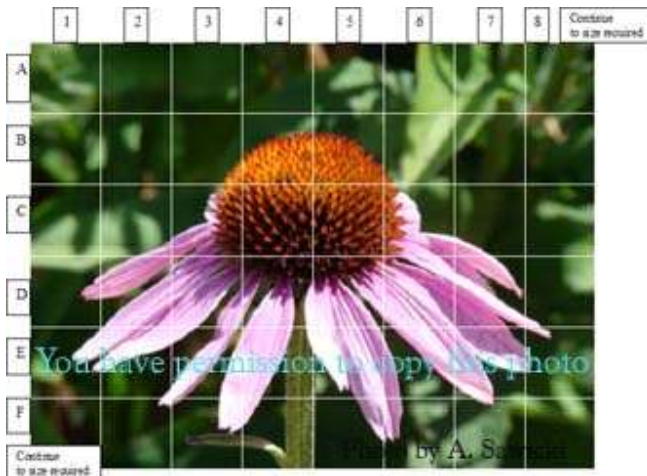
As I said before some folks have a good eye when it comes to drawing but others need a little help to get started. In this month's column I will acquaint you with a drawing method of which numerous artists use and is acceptable in art competitions.

It is called the **Grid System**. The grid system has been dated way back to the ancient Egyptians artists. Artists like Leonardo Da Vinci also used the grid method in both his works and teachings. Today the grid method is still used in many art schools. It great for beginners to get an accurate drawing and it also helps train ones eyes to see in a different way. After a while you will not need to draw the grid as you will see the grid in your mind. You begin by overlaying a grid onto an original image (*photo*) that you wish to paint and then placing a matching grid pattern on top of your canvas or paper surface. For example, if you are using an original photo which is 8x10 you could draw a one - inch grid onto the photo to create a grid pattern with say, eighty squares (eight squares by ten squares.) Note: *to protect photo, draw grid onto acetate to lay on top of photo.*

Now your original photo is divided into eighty one- inch squares and each of which are much easier to sketch onto the paper or canvas than the entire original scene. Next step is to draw a corresponding grid pattern on the paper or canvas the same size as your photo. Draw in your grid lines very lightly as these lines are erased once the drawing is completed and before you start to paint; especially if using watercolours as the pencil lines will show through. Next step is to write numbers one to eight or ten (what ever amount of square you want) along the top of the grid and letters A to H along either the right or left side of the grid. I have included below is a sample of grid drawn on top of



photo along with letters and numbers which will help you in corresponding from one grid to the other.



Now do the grid on your drawing surface and simply match what you see in each square and voila, you have a drawing.

There is a wonderful new product out there called "Paint by Grids." Go to [www.paintbygrids.com](http://www.paintbygrids.com), there you will find more info on this new product and an explanation on the math of grid method when it comes to various sizes. I have also included a few websites which have a lot of information on learning to draw and paint.

<http://www.dog-portraits-inpencil.com/proportion.html>

<http://emptyeasel.com>

I hope this information will be of some help to you.

I will be holding a **One Day Painting Workshop at Jsano** some time in January and another in February here at my home in Chamberlain Twp.

For more information please either phone or send me an e-mail.

**From my house to your house, all the best for the holiday season!**

Alice Y. Seguin Sawicki signing off, stay safe.

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