

Goat in the Boat: Images that Inspire

CASA Presentation by Kathleen Sharp

March 2, 2012

Keeping Studio Notebooks:

Gather imagery and motivational quotes for inspiration, reference and for solving creative blocks. The notebooks should serve as a personal archive of things that inspire or are appealing. The notebooks may be compiled as scrapbooks; as a place to doodle with pencils or with oil pastels; as a source for color/palette choices; as a source for patterns that are appealing; and as collages using magazine imagery.

These small works of inspiration can then be used to create larger pieces either in part or in whole. Kathleen uses these small collages to develop quilts. Both require that materials are cut and then reassembled in a different way.

The Jungian-based method of the creative process begins with gathering things; using an uncensored mind's eye; and then dreaming in a new way. Keep things around that are pleasing to look at (eye candy) and that, therefore, inspire.

The Design Process:

Using the Studio Notebooks for reference, begin developing the concept for the artwork (quilt). Kathleen tends towards the development of a Theater with a stage, set design, curtains, actor(s), a production, an audience and things going on behind the scenes. This arrangement helps to focus attention toward the message. Make some images in clay and then use the image of the clay model in art work.

Kathleen uses reoccurring imagery such as Heart, Hand and Eye which must all work together to create art. Another reoccurring image is the Goat in a Boat which has been utilized many times after the original: as a triptych, as an enlarged version, and in different color schemes (different textiles).

Getting Your Art Seen:

It is important just to be creative and make art. But just as important, is to have the work seen by others. It is an act that improves the culture.

The venues for showing artwork is many and includes: public art installations; regional

art centers; airports; display cases (Library); art shows; exhibits and traveling exhibits; and art galleries.

Always use the best materials to help preserve artwork (conservation).

Art Philosophy:

Wear the cloak of convention lightly.

Do the work!

*Don't try and figure out what people want.
Figure out what you want to be;
what you want to say.*