

TO THE STUDENT and TO THE EDUCATOR

IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT SKIP

Being an artist is something that happens within a person, but is expressed outwardly. Having the correct information and tools will help this process, so that the result of that expression is satisfactory to the artist and to the audience.

There will be many Scripture references in this study. You are made in God's image; therefore you have creative bones. You may just need to exercise them. You are probably familiar with the Scripture in Galatians 6:7-8: *(7) "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."* (KJV) This is a principle of the Kingdom of God that applies to every area of our lives. Apply that principle to this art study. Whatever honest effort you invest in your art studies will show eventually in great satisfaction to you as you see your progress. If you do not take it seriously, it will show in your product and how you feel about it. Have you ever heard the saying, "People who make excuses make little else."? It will be easy to cheat, because your tests and answer keys are in the Appendix. But if you do take short cuts, you will be cheating yourself of valuable benefits to your brain – and to your entire soul.

PACING YOUR PROGRESS: You may proceed through this guide at your own pace. Some lessons will move more quickly than others, but move only as fast as you are able to do quality work. Allow time for the extras, even though they are not required. The more you take time to do, and the more thoughtfully and carefully you work, the more you will learn. The goal is not how fast you can complete this course or how many extra activities you can do, but how well you do the expected ones, and how much thought you invest in them. To progress smoothly through each lesson, read the entire lesson before beginning and follow the alphabetical arrangement when you start. Do not skip any lessons, and do not skip any sections of the lessons. Each section is important for your art skills and art thinking processes, which you may not realize until you complete the entire course. Therefore, don't rush.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS: If you require credit for this course:

- Your educator will remove and keep the Test and Answer Key section, will administer your tests, will keep records, and assist you in evaluating your artwork.
- Keep all your work organized by date in a portfolio. Keep your sketch book. You will need them to prepare your college entrance portfolio.
- Keep this manual in case you are required to prove the content to college admissions.

- Keep your hard copies even if college admissions ask for digital. You may be famous someday and your artwork could sell for thousands!
- Complete the full course, keeping records and all your work.
- You must score an 85 average or above on art assignments and tests to receive credit for each unit. This will be easy, so don't worry.

There are "tried and true" techniques and "rules" that successful artists use. Once these are learned, they may be adjusted and even skillfully broken. This curriculum will introduce you to those tried and true techniques and rules. You will be given information in an understandable form that will make you successful **with practice**. I am emphasizing practice, because these techniques must become second nature to you so that you can produce artworks intuitively without excessive conscious thought. You must always keep in mind that not every artwork you produce will be successful at the beginning, and that does not make you a failure. Even after much practice, professional artists sometimes turn out duds. You will be learning what to do as well as what not to do. You may have high expectations as your long-run goal, but don't allow disappointment in failures at the beginning to thwart that goal. Keep all your artworks, even the failures, in your portfolio. You can clean out "failures" at the end of the course. You will be encouraged by your progress.

You may have noticed from the table of contents that the first three units have to do with drawing. This is important, because the foundation of good artwork is drawing, no matter what medium is used. Practice every chance you get in your sketchbook apart from required assignments.

The following pages in this Introduction contain valuable information that will help you start. Read it thoroughly.

Pull yourself away somewhat from other pleasurable pursuits while taking this art journey. The computer will still be there after you complete an assignment. Give your thumbs some R&R from video games. Your favorite CD's will not grow moldy.

The process of creating is just as important as the image! Even if your life goal is not an art career, creating art is very valuable for your brain! This gives you a proven advantage in your regular subjects and on national tests. **Have fun!** This art course will expand your mind so that you will surprise yourself!

Artfully,
Diane