

# A DAY IN THE ARTS

## Making art accessible to all

April 13, 2009 ADA0044 www.adayinthearts.com

### CARTOONING - THE ALL-IMPORTANT SKETCHBOOK

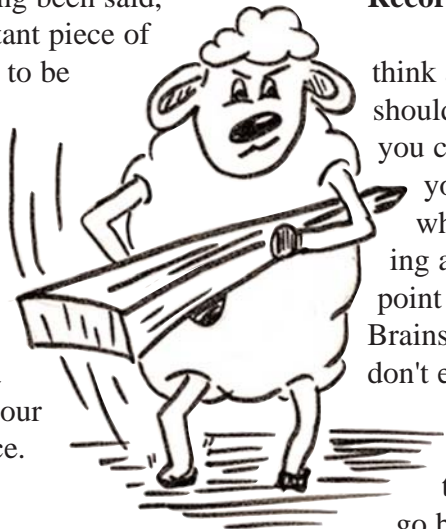
By Ken Nelson

When it comes to taking up a career as a cartoonist, there are very few things that are needed; this is one thing that makes the idea so attractive. The initial start-up investment is very small - in fact, you can most likely prepare a submission packet with stuff you already have around the house. A writing utensil and something to write on are all you absolutely need to begin.

But, that having been said, there is a very important piece of equipment that needs to be considered a must-have in every cartoonist's bag of tricks - the sketchpad. The sketchpad is your passport into the world of the cartoonist. Here are a few tips to enhance your sketchbook experience.

#### Keep It With You At All Times

Your sketchbook should become another part of your body. People should be able to identify you as the one carrying the drawing



pad. You never know when the inspiration will strike you. In fact, you don't need to wait on the inspiration. You should be doodling and writing in that thing even when you're not inspired. Write about feeling un-creative. Illustrate the doldrums of artist's block. When the creative energy returns, you'll have these notes to spark even better ideas.

#### Record Things That Interest You

Write and illustrate the things that you think about. Things that make you laugh should go in there. And the things that make you cry. Or that make you angry. Consider your sketchbook a sort of brain dump where you unload everything you're thinking about. It doesn't have to be funny at this point - that'll come later in the Cartoon Brainstorming sessions. The things you record don't even have to make sense to anyone but you (and they don't even have to make sense to you!). They are just going to be there, waiting to spark an idea when you go back through your work.

And be sure to date the pages occasionally. That makes it nice when you go back through them over the years and can pinpoint the day when you were thinking this and that.

### WORD OF THE DAY

#### HELLENISTIC PERIOD

A period and style of Mediterranean culture influenced by the Greek art world following the conquests of Alexander the Great (356-323 BCE, king of Macedonia and conqueror of Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, Babylonia, and Persia). The expression of inner emotions was more important than beauty to the artists of this period.



“The sense of motion in painting and sculpture has long been considered as one of the primary elements of the composition.”  
- Alexander Calder

### ART AEROBICS

Practice your drawing skills

Use watercolor to sketch your drawing manikin wearing a tuxedo. Fifteen minutes ☞

## Review Them Regularly . . .

. . . but not too often. The reason is that you need to let these observations sit and rest. Forget about them (unless a really good idea strikes you all at once, which does occasionally happen) and let them simmer while you do other things. When you go back and review your work, they'll seem fresh. This will help you look at something from a different angle, and it just might ignite a new idea. Make your Cartoon Brainstorming session an important part of your week. Sit down with a nice beverage (caffeine seems to stimulate the synapses!) and start going through the previous week's sketchbook entries. Think about the things you wrote or drew, and consider whether or not there is some cartoon potential hidden there.

My first published newspaper cartoon was a direct result of good sketchbook habits. Our pastor said something from the pulpit one Sunday morning that I thought was funny and I wrote it down. I even drew a quick little illustration to go along with it. Years later, I rediscovered that drawing, worked it up into a full-blown cartoon and submitted it. It was accepted and published by King Features Syndicate in newspapers all across the country. I also received fifty bucks, but that didn't thrill me nearly as much as having my work validated by no less an authority than King Features Syndicate!

Develop these good sketchbook habits, and in no time you'll be generating cartoon ideas you can be proud to send off to an editor! 🐾

*Ken Nelson is a freelance writer and cartoonist. He markets his unique brand of humor at the Flogwear site where anybody can purchase t-shirts, mugs, aprons, calendars, and many other items printed with his cartoons and writings. <http://www.cafe-press.com/flogwear> Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com>*



## ART NEWS

### NEW BLOG FOR NATURE SKETCHERS

Author and artist Cathy Johnson has created a new blog to showcase the work of fellow plein air painters. Already the new network features twelve artists, all providing an in-depth look at the natural world. Take a peek and see what they are up to today. <http://naturesketchers.blogspot.com/>

### POMPEII AND THE ROMAN VILLA

Pompeii and the Roman Villa focuses on the breadth and richness of cultural and artistic life in this region. The exhibition, organized by the National Gallery, Washington, D.C., and being shown at The

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, includes works of art from the imperial villa at Oplontis and from aristocratic villas such as the Villa San Marco at Stabiae and the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum, as well as works from the opulent houses of the urban elite in Pompeii, whose very name conjures up ancient Rome and other towns along the bay of Naples. The objects proposed for this exhibition are a carefully selected group of approximately one hundred-twenty works of sculpture, painting, mosaic, and luxury arts, some of them long-familiar works, others generally unknown to the public. Recent discoveries from around the Bay of Naples that have never before been exhibited in the United States will complement more familiar finds from earlier excavations. In particular, the exhibition focuses on the influence of Classical Greek culture around the Bay of Naples, where wealthy

Romans displayed impressive art collections in sumptuous homes. Opens May 3 and runs through October 4, 2009.

<http://tinyurl.com/adpjbm>

### RECYCLED ART

The **Phillips Museum of Art** at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania announces a call to artists for a national exhibition to be held September 10 - October 30, 2009.

Awards: cash, merchandise, gift certificates.



*Boar Attacked by Dogs*, 1st century BC – 1st century AD, bronze, Pompeii, House of the Citharist, from central garden, Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli

Open to all U.S. Residents 18 years of age and older. Artwork must be 100% re-used, salvaged, recycled material - art and non art, created within the last two years. \$20 entry fee. Deadline: Midnight, May 1, 2009. For a prospectus, please send your request to [christine.batta@fandm.edu](mailto:christine.batta@fandm.edu)

#### **WATERMEDIA 2009**

The **Montana Watercolor Society** announces a call to artists for "Watermedia 2009", Sept 22 - Oct 16, 2009 at the Hockaday Museum in Kalispell, Montana. Over \$5,000 in cash and merchandise awards. Deadline: May 1, 2009. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/d54e7q> to learn more.

#### **NEED CASH? PAWN YOUR PAINTINGS**

It seems the economy is hitting people in all income ranges these days. In New York City, pawn brokers are reporting an increase of paintings, from Renoir to Warhol, being pawned in an effort to raise cash. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/chgcrh>

#### **ELEGANT ENIGMAS**

Uninvited guests, falling masonry and carnivorous plants fill the unique, imaginary world of artist and author Edward Gorey. *Elegant Enigmas: The Art of Edward Gorey*, an exhibition on view from March 21 through May 17 at **The Brandywine River Museum** (Chadds Ford, PA), celebrates this artist and writer, whose masterful pen and ink illustrations and ironic, offbeat humor have brought him critical acclaim and an avid following throughout the world.

During his lifetime, Edward Gorey (1925-2000) published over 100 works, designed sets and costumes for countless theater productions, created popular animations,

and illustrated works for a wide array of authors from Charles Dickens and John Updike to Virginia Woolf and H.G. Wells. *Elegant Enigmas*, organized by the Brandywine River Museum, is the first traveling exhibition of Gorey's work, and a long-overdue tribute. The exhibition features approximately 180 original works, many never

before exhibited, including selections from *The Gashlycrumb Tinies*, *The Doubtful Guest*, *The Unstrung Harp*, *The Gilded Bat*, and other well-known publications, drawn primarily from the extensive archives of The Edward Gorey Charitable Trust and significant private collections. <http://tinyurl.com/cg62zf>



**ARTIST TO WATCH**  
**René Beeldendkunstenaar**  
<http://painting-pleinair.blogspot.com/>