

art thought

FROM READERS

A forum for you to share about your creative process, and how it functions as part of your spiritual life.

Jean Sampson Flower Essence

I view my artistic failures as intermediate steps in the creative process. For example, under *Flower Essence* (an oil pastel), is a really bad watercolor that had gone to mud when I painted it twenty years ago. Using this so-called failure as a base, I began to smear oil pastel over the watercolor, allowing some of the original painting to show through. Had I still not been satisfied with the result, I might have made a collage, a sculpture or even a pair of earrings as a next step. I never give up on a piece of artwork.

Jean R Sampson is a poet and artist living in Charlottesville, Virginia. She believes that all creative endeavors begin with the question, "I wonder what would happen if?"



Thandiwe Shiphrah Intuition

Thandiwe Shiphrah is poet-orator and visual artist living in Nashville, Tennessee.

Check out her CD, The Secret Marvelous Instead, at www.cdbaby.com/bosch.

Have you been happening in this place without knowing how?

Here, have some light.

Go ahead, feel the heat warming a hole through the top of your skull.

Breathe in.

And vice versa.

Are you familiar with the concept?

Keep doing it.

Now, think up a word and wave it around in the air.

And there you have it. Essentially, that's all that's going on here.

Sound

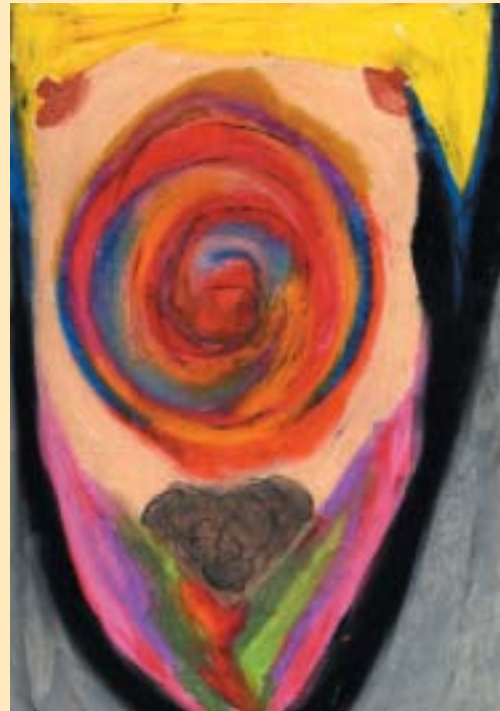
moving through the center
of a dream.



Kathy Wolf

This pastel drawing is what my creative process feels like right now: Aching. Churning. Howling. Desire. Imminent Explosion. Sucking Wound. Hot, corrosive, liquid passion dammed up inside breaking free. Beautiful colors, sensual, exciting and overwhelming.

Kathy Wolf is an anthropologist by training, currently the C.O.O. of Family Support America. She lives in Evanston, Illinois with her husband and son.



Diane Archer

In a Great Storm

A work of art first enters the artist in the form of inspiration (to draw air into the lungs; to breathe in). The process of creating the work is the act of breathing out. The art is the breath, itself, having been transformed from idea into form. The work—the breath—is then put out into the world to become, hopefully, another in-breath, or an inspiration for another...and so the breath cycle continues. *Breathing in...breathing out...breathing in...breathing out...* I am left pondering that timeless question "Who is it that is doing the breathing?"

"Not I, Not I, but the wind that blows through me."
—D.H. Lawrence.

Diane Archer received a MFA from Kent State University and is currently traveling around the US and New Zealand. Contact her at diane@dianearcher.com.



← **Francene Hart**

Passion and Compassion

It is my intention to create art that embodies the vibration of Universal Love and expresses the joy and gratitude I feel for the honor of being part of this earthwalk. In this one, Pele, the passionate volcano goddess of Hawaii, joins Quan Yin, the goddess of compassion, to create a union which offers new meaning to these intense creative energies.

Francene Hart is a visionary artist who was summoned by spirit in 2001 to the Big Island of Hawaii and is now painting, swimming and living her bliss in blessed Hawaii. See more of her work at www.francenehart.com and contact her at hartart@hawaii.net.

Wendy Harding

Just as Christianity created paintings "illuminating" their sacred prayers, I am inspired to create paintings that illuminate the sacred prayers of Tibetan Buddhism. These images are a part of an ongoing series, combining the styles of Christian Illumination and Tibetan Buddhist Thangka painting. My work is a reflection of my faith and devotion not only to Tibetan Buddhism but also to my teacher, Bardor Tulku Rinpoche.

Wendy Harding is a painter who lives in Woodstock, NY. She conducts Tibetan Buddhist Thangka painting workshops and has taught painting throughout the northeast. She can be reached at wharding@netstep.net.



Zeet Peabody

Self Portrait with Flaming Sutra Tie

...3:40 RIDE NEW YORK CITY...I consider myself an artist, regardless of my current occupation, allowing me to maintain a positive outlook regardless of my economic reality. A blessing and a curse, I hold the position that the gift of vision I was granted can transcend and help the metamorphosis of myself, and hopefully others, into a "higher" whatever. As an artist I prefer a "well dressed ego," garbed in shirt and tie, a charm-inducing suit of armor to deflect the omnipresent pile of rejections I have accumulated. I donned my suit and flaming sutra tie and left for New York City to be interviewed for...I can't recall. Crossing by high speed commuter ferry over the water and under the Verrazano Bridge, I marveled at the urban skies approaching, and thanked all the gods that my art and ego were well dressed and protected for the day's journey.

Zeet Peabody is a painter, restaurateur, and chef for those hungry for a vision. He lives and paints by the sea, in New Jersey, a stones throw from Ground Zero. Contact him at atlez@aol.com or 732-291-8988.



Bob Savino

Riddling the Stars

I identify with Emily Dickinson when she writes, "I'm nobody! Who are you - Nobody—Too?"

Bob Savino is nobody, and lives in Kansas City, Missouri.