

THE NATIONAL BULLETIN NEWSPAPER

REVIEW & INTERVIEW: Diane Phillips, Author

Subject: Art Lessons;

REVIEW:

Many contemporary artists shun the business world, afraid they will be sucked into some vacuum that will sweep up all of their creativity and spit them out as useless dust moles in a garbage heap of used goods. Other artists have “sold out” and are making a killing on Madison Avenue that allows them to drive Porsches and BMW’s and live in nice homes in manicured suburbs.

The common denominator to both, “Fine Artist and Commercial Artists” is the busy business executive who is buying the art produced by both, either as an investment or promotional aid, respectively, because he or she is the one who generates enough income to satisfy the needs of both creative types.

Recently, a third option for the artist has emerged. According to one local to Clearwater, **Diane Phillips** “The difference between an artist who works for, the ‘masses’ and one who shares his art with only a few lucky ‘souls’ is simply how much reach that artist receives once he is willing to give.”

Diane has been producing her art for years and some of it is in museums or private collections, and some in commercial avenues of the world. Her latest work supersedes taking sides and accomplishes what few other artists have been able to do successfully. Diane has brought into one volume a collection of her Art Lessons called, **ART LESSONS for CHILDREN of ALL AGES**. She also has created, “**1 minute art lessons**” for the majority of folks who want to learn a skill a minute, rather than ingesting tons of theory before any results.

Her **ART LESSONS** book and, **1 minute art lessons** are designed to enable anyone, a child, parent, grandparent, caregiver, or teacher to learn to create art in any style; to quickly improve awareness, communication, imagination, memory or arts and crafts techniques.

Diane Phillips, is an Artist, Author, Art Educator, Life Coach.

The following is an interview with this unique individual: The National Bulletin (TNB):

INTERVIEW:

(TNB) Diane, what qualifies you to teach art to others? Diane(DP): Besides my formal training, I have taught art to over 100 schools and written curriculum for all ages with abundant testimonials and results, without being physically present.

DP: My experience encompasses working with preschoolers and younger ages of middle school, as well as university level students. I also taught Special Education classes for handicapped persons, and worked in Art Therapy Centers when that concept was just taking hold.

TNB: Is Art a kind of therapy, or what?

DP: Actually, art is about personal communication and the quality of communication.

For instance, many people see a work of art not knowing the artist's name or fame of the work, yet they do know whether they like it or not and whether it moves them emotionally. In other words, they know what they consider quality art for themselves.

TNB: Many people we know consider they can't really **DO** art. Do you find that so?

DP: I find that people of any age **CAN** learn art and that given the right approach and some simple tools will **LOVE** to draw, paint or simply express themselves if approached properly. Unfortunately, what you say is too true.

TNB: Then what is the biggest barrier to learning art?

DP: Definitely, any form of self-invalidation or a feeling of not being able to communicate original ideas feely or effectively.

TNB: Self-invalidation-what's that?

DP: Putting yourself down; fearing that you can't do something, will fail, even before trying. Too many criticisms along the way, especially from peers or 'authorities,' and the creative urge, so native to our youths gets crushed, And, as a result that innate enthusiasm we are born with, to bring joy to others through our creativity is stopped. Early-on, with a simple 'opinion' about his work and he/ she can tumble into thinking it might be true somehow and one's expressed originality is buried from that point. It's a tragedy, never to see the original works from each potential artist; Works that may have made people feel joy, in our hurried world.

TNB: Any other tricks you have?

DP: An artist who wants to create must have a purpose in mind for his action, a reason to create. Having some purpose-it doesn't matter what it is, so long as it is his/hers-helps guide the learning process. Of course, there are as in any other field of study, basics to learn and practice which I have developed to be learned quickly, easily, and joyfully done.

TB: Are your methods easy for someone to learn?

DP: Very, my new **ART LESSONS** book, and, **1 MINUTE ART** lessons take the person rapidly step-by-step through the basics of art, in a fast and fun way, so he or she **KNOWS** with certainty he **CAN express ideas through his art**. Each person then can achieve the effects he/she wishes to create.

The budding artist naturally wants an expansive audience for whatever he/she produces. Traditionally this had been so throughout history. It is evident in the great art of the Renaissance, and can again be true of each contemporary. Today, we need more artists leading this society though their dreams that are put on record and spread broadly, as the measure of the wealth of a culture.

TNB: So, replacing self-invalidation, with rapidly accomplished creatively expressed artistic skills are the "Keys"?

DP: Surely!