

Turnbull Art Tips # 1

by artists, authors, and teachers Rae and George Turnbull

Every time we conduct a workshop or teach a class or give a critique after a drawing session, there are many points that we find ourselves mentioning repeatedly. We decided those bits of advice or wisdom or whatever you choose to call them might be useful to others involved in creating and/or appreciating art.

*Art has many forms. But whether it's a drawing, or a musical score, or a piece of poetry, it is essentially **COMMUNICATION**. The artist creates in order to communicate, to express his or her self and to persuade the viewer or the listener to see or hear a certain point of view...to **PERSUADE** others to "pay attention!"*

*Persuasive communication begins with an **IDEA**.*

Without an idea, the poet is only playing with words, the musician is only making noise and the painter is only making marks. Once there is an idea, the artist gives it form and substance so others may receive the message.

*The message can be playful, or emotional, vibrant, or quietly serene...the communication "tools" may be pencil and paint, or violins and trombones, or poetic rhymes...the resulting "art" may be abstracted images, or realistic detail, a melodic orchestral score, or a spontaneous jazz riff....but if there is no **IDEA** behind it, there is no real communication.*

The additional 5 Art Tips will elaborate on this basic idea.