

NAEA Conference in New Orleans, Spring Break provides some well deserved down time, and Spring arrives to keep us inspired!

Happy Youth Art Month!

CREATIVE JUICE



Seeds of Inspiration can be found in a series of works or in a variety of media.

WITH SPRING TIME COMES RENEWAL...

The changing of the seasons brings the perfect time to experiment and try new approaches to subjects explored previously in other media. Go outdoors to landscapes and nature or look to other people to paint and draw.

Finding subject matter to explore can be challenging. I always found that if I could provide some NEW media challenges, the same subjects worked fine and actually added to the student's successes. If they had drawn plants in contour, then we got better drawings when we used them again as subjects in paint or mixed media. It is important to add to the complexity of the drawing assignment so they do not feel like they are doing the same thing again. Drawing the plants gave us an opportunity to observe the structure of the plants and how the leaves were attached to the stems. The varied sizes of the plants' leaves as well as the variety of leaves. Allowing several media experiments simultaneously was an exciting diversion to everyone in the room doing the exact same thing. Some students may draw over their pencil

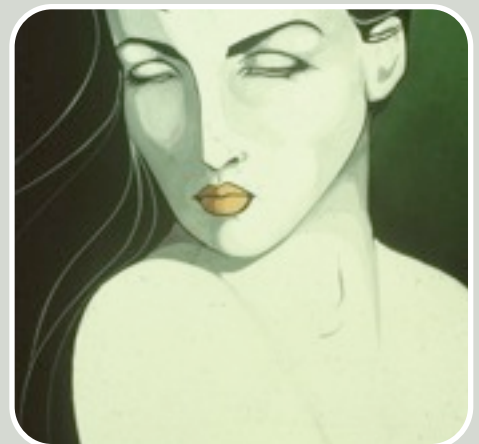
lines with crayons, then add watercolor or Dr. Martin's Dyes, others filled the plant with heavy applications of oil pastels in layers, then wash over them in wet media. Black india ink could also be applied and then allowed to dry then scratched off for a fascinating engraved effect.

Above the plants were painted in gouache with the pencil lines untouched leaving a vein of the paper's color showing through.

Live models in assorted poses and costumes can be an interesting subject matter to explore. The same model approached in a variety of media can add to the fun and excitement in your classes.

"Believe it is possible to solve your problem. Tremendous things happen to the believer. So believe the answer will come. It will."

Norman Vincent Peale



The painting above was one of a series of women painted in tempera by Celia. Each of these beautiful and mysterious women were done in an oversized scale in a limited palette