

Studio Talk

Susan Sternau Studios

Where Creativity Happens

1001 Bridgeway #107, Sausalito

Oils, watercolors, prints, private art lessons

Commissions welcome. Free consultation.



Warren Buffett with teacher, Susan. He said I can tell everyone I taught him everything he knows, "but that might kill my business."

Creative Teaching

What do you give a man who has everything on his birthday? How about an experience he's never had before – creating a painting? But how do you silence the inner critic and the fear of failure? Don't give them a chance to get started! A step-by-step, "follow the bouncing brush" approach works beautifully for everyone, and Warren Buffett and Bill Gates were no exception.

"You were WONDERFUL today!! Everyone had a fabulous time, especially Warren Buffett and Bill Gates..... they couldn't believe they had so much fun doing something they never thought they'd do. Warren made a point of telling David and me how terrific you were and how patient you were, so thought you should know you were very much appreciated." Sharon Osberg and David Smith

First Weekends Calendar
OPEN STUDIO
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1ST & 2ND
2 TO 5 PM
Mark your Calendar today!

Creative hosts and art lovers, David and Sharon spent multiple sessions with me perfecting an experience they had enjoyed on a recent vacation, where an artist lead them step-by-step in the creation of a landscape painting. Three landscapes later, I had a subject, inspired by my recent hike on Angel Island that could be completed in about an hour. By having written down each step as I painted, and numbering the colors on each palette for easy mixing, (not to mention having already painted the same scene three times), I was confidently able to lead their guests to a successful and pleasing result.



Sharon and David holding their Angel Island Paintings. My demonstration painting (version 3) is on the easel.

Another creative teaching challenge for me this summer was leading a team building painting project for Genentech's Xolair Marketing Group during their retreat in Sausalito. The goal was to help team members with vastly different art experience manage visual chaos by working together to create a cooperative artwork. Given a choice of painting water, sky or land, team members worked on canvases of different shapes and sizes to be later displayed together in tiers-- creating a panorama of the Sausalito waterfront.



Two of the Genentech painters display their work.

They began with an hour sketching session in the park, and finished up with a two hour painting session at an improvised art studio in the Casa Madrone hotel. Here, I helped them transfer their sketches to canvas and transform them into acrylic paintings. The group was able to create a vibrant artwork that expressed their energy and creativity both individually and as a team – and gave them all a sense of great accomplishment – achieving what they didn't think they could do.



Group sketching session in Sausalito's Gabrielson Park, April 2005



Beginning an acrylic painting...



About half-way done...



Genentech's Xolair Marketing group shows off their panorama of Sausalito waterfront in tiers of water, land and sky.

With 30 years of painting experience behind me, having earned two degrees in Art History, and authored four books about art, I'm delighted to be sharing my knowledge and expertise. It feels right that I should be able to pass on my love of art and painting to people of all ages and skill levels. My goal with students, both individuals and groups, is to launch them creatively – give them the confidence to express themselves with art, through building working methods and comfort with materials. Getting past everyone's inner critic is the hard part – the rest is easy!

With any purchase in 2005, you will be entered into a drawing to win a framed Golden Gate Bridge print – a \$245 value. Drawing held on Dec. 4th. Winner notified by Dec. 15th.



A proud student poses with his Golden Gate Bridge painting. Visiting from Switzerland in 2004, Claudio found painting lessons at my studio a refreshing change from banking work.

FREE ART LESSON

Receive a Gift Certificate for a Free Art Lesson with any October purchase of original art. Certificate is transferable to a friend or family member. A \$55 value (75 minute lesson). All materials included!

Hurricane Help

10% of October sales will be donated to the Red Cross for hurricane relief. Go to RedCross.org to donate directly. You can make a difference!

