

# Make Your Art Better and have Fun!

Private lessons, reasonable fee, studio or outdoors. Choose from pens, pencils, oils and acrylics with *Mairi Budreau AFCA*.



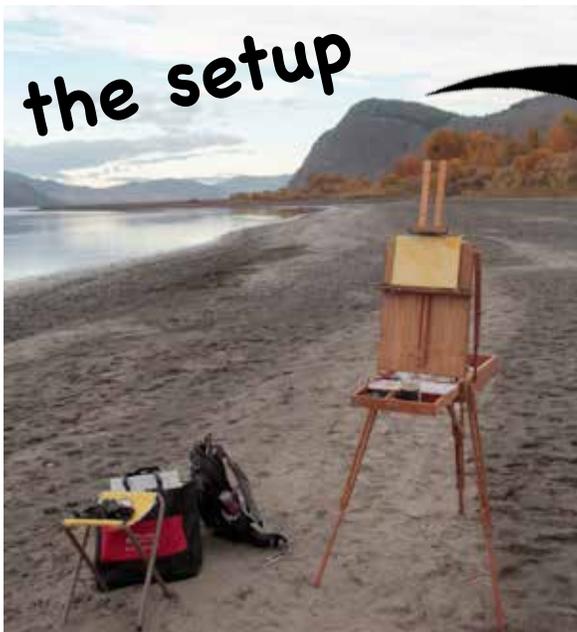
## En plein air

I am often pulled to the freshness that appears in a painting when its done the old way - en plein air. I go outside and paint a scene on-location and later reproduce it in the studio just like Tom Thomson or Monet would have done. I love how translating a view through my own eyes and hands leaves lasting impressions on my memory of where I was, the light and the day. Using only photographs simply does not compare.

and later still the studio painting



the setup



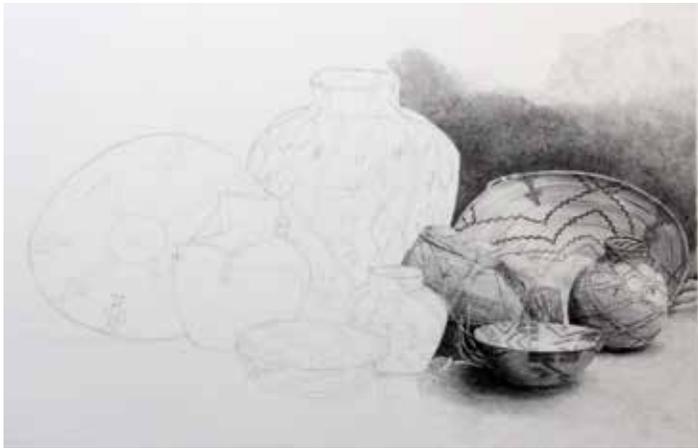
1 hour later



**En plein air** is one way to make your art better, but there are many ways **chalk full of discoveries**.

Making art draws you close to the beauty in nature or the flowing forms of a vase, or the way light describes architecture helping you to convey volume and texture. It builds relationships with people and things as you explore light and form.

Making art presents **new ways of seeing** and develops skills for the hands as they work in concert with the eye.



Working from old photos is a passion of mine and this one of Apache Baskets shows a drawing in progress.

Making art describes forms on flat surfaces so they appear perfectly realized whether they are imaginary, abstract, or real and recognizable.

Making art leads to choices about what to leave in and what to leave out and through these kinds of decisions we grow a **personal sense of balance**.

Making art develops distinctive, unique and **identifiable style** that happens without premeditation and it changes with growth and time. Like your signature, the marks you make are original in response to what you see, how you feel in the moment, and the history of your life experience. Your personality pours out of pencils, brushes, chinks and so on.

Making art can cause frustration and confusion and both of these feelings are not fun but the upside is they usually precede breakthroughs. A **Breakthrough** feels good!

Art materials **are a dance with science**. They harness the properties of light and the chemistry of pigments in mediums and the surfaces upon which they are applied. Mixing colours and layer-

ing them over other colours hones the eye to read colour. A 'mistake' can turn into a very important method.

Making art with a good teacher helps you avoid painting yourself into a corner. A good teacher helps keep you motivated when mistakes weigh you down. A good teacher let's you problem solve and find your own expression.

Making art **gives your brain a rest** from the buzz of everyday life. It lifts you out of pressure into the timelessness of imagination and creativity.

Making art is therapeutic. It releases joy, sometimes pain or repressed memories. Sometimes it connects us with hidden emotions that heal old wounds, but for the most part making art is **a pleasurable past time**.

Making art is not for the "instant gratification" crowd because developing skills happens only through steady practice.

Making art is exciting when a technique is first learned, then added successfully, or when a breakthrough such as **seeing-like-an-artist** occurs, or when a common object takes on meaning purely because of how much you understand it's form and colour.

The making of art teaches simplification and complication – two aspects of the same thing. How far you go in either direction is up to you.



This Merganser started out as a demo at TNSC show and made it to the finish line. Acrylic on canvas



Higgins Lake, BC acrylic on canvas

**Are you curious to see where you can go in art?**

**Here's what I offer:**

**Realistic drawing and painting techniques in pencil, pen, charcoal, acrylic and oil from photos, real life, and plein aire (outdoor)**

- Structural drawing, gestural drawing
- Composition - what makes and breaks it
- Old Masters drawing and painting techniques
- Contemporary drawing and painting techniques
- Outdoor sketching methods for pleasure, and compositional development.
- Volume, proportion and scale
- Understanding colour, how to mix colours
- The value of values
- Perspective - several types
- Still life
- Landscapes, nature and wildlife
- Portraits and human anatomy
- Photography to paint from
- How to photograph finished artworks for competitions, magazines and web publication

**choose one or  
mix and match**

**Classes are tailored to your interests  
and goals  
For experienced and beginners  
Age 12 and up**

**Evening class**

Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, 7– 9pm  
(Time is flexible)

**Day class**

Sunday or Thursday

Studio & Outdoors (weather permitting)

Other times available upon request

**2 hours \$50 per class**

If you're stuck,  
if you draw and want to paint  
if you paint and want to draw  
contact Mairi

**For more information**

**Email: [budreau@shaw.ca](mailto:budreau@shaw.ca)**

**Cell: 250 299 1238**

Check out my website!

**[www.budreau.ca](http://www.budreau.ca)**



*The Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Vermeer is here at the values stage using the grisaille method.

**classical methods**



*The Bather* by Ingres is a great study of flesh and drapery.



Pencil rendition of Leonardo Da Vinci's *Last Supper*.