



What Michelangelo Can Teach Us About Success

by John Weiss

John P. Weiss (johnpweiss.com) is a landscape painter, cartoonist and writer who has given us permission to publish his fine article on being successful in any endeavor. We bring it to you right here and hope you enjoy it.

Have you ever been given a job assignment you really didn't want to do? If so, then you have something in common with Michelangelo, the famous Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect and poet.



Apart from Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo is arguably the greatest artist of all time. He may have been prodigious, brilliant and divinely inspired, but that doesn't mean he wasn't human. And mere humans can be cranky.

Most people are familiar with the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City, Rome. Aside from serving as a venue for the election of new popes via a conclave of the College of Cardinals, the Sistine Chapel is most notable for its remarkable fresco

paintings. Most famous of all are the frescoes by Michelangelo.

Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel, but Michelangelo considered himself a sculptor. In fact, he was busy with a sculpting project when the good Pope came knocking with the Sistine Chapel job. He didn't want to take the commission. He actually looked down on painting. He was a sculptor, for crying out loud! But what's a poor Renaissance superstar to do, say no to the Pope?

Michelangelo had to construct special scaffolds to paint the Sistine Chapel. And despite conventional wisdom, he didn't actually lie down on the scaffolds to paint. He stood up. But still. He labored on the project from 1508 until 1512.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the German writer and statesman, said this about Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: "Without having seen the Sistine Chapel one can form no appreciable idea of what one man is capable of achieving."

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Few, if any, among us possess the monumental artistic talent of Michelangelo. But beyond his artistic skill, Michelangelo does demonstrate another skill that is within our grasp. What Michelangelo can teach us about success is simply this: You have to show up.

Yes, talent and skill matter. But the world is full of talented, skilled individuals who fail. The reason why is that they are unable to consistently show up. It's our human inclination to grow bored with routine and repetition. We start new projects and goals with great gusto. But after a bit we fizzle out.

What often separates the successful from the unsuccessful is consistency. Michelangelo wanted to sculpt, but never the less, he spent over four years painting instead. He showed up, day in and day out, straddling awkward scaffolds, painting masterful frescoes that the world still marvels at.

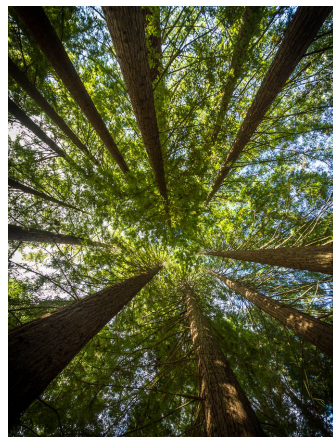
Certainly there were days he loathed the effort.

This section of the Museletter is dedicated to the colorful palette of artists housed at Art On Main. All of our artists are thoughtfully juried into the gallery, so our patrons can be assured of the quality, originality and professionalism of the art work.

Larry D. White

Larry is an award winning photographer who has exhibited in a variety of California venues and his work graces walls in private collections throughout the United States. After putting his equipment (35MM cameras and other specialty cameras used for black and white photography inspired by Ansel Adams) away in the 1970s to raise his family, his passion was reignited several years ago when he began experimenting with new equipment and techniques. He bought his first digital camera and started processing the images on his computer at home and sending them out to a lab for printing.

Currently living in Murphys, California, Larry has access to an abundance of natural wonders he can pick and choose from for his stunning photographs.



His tripod is a central tool for shooting his landscapes and for other subjects that don't move. It slows down his picture-taking and allows him to better compose his images and take control of things like exposure, depth of field and proper use of filters. He

In fact, he wrote to friends about the strain of his labors. But he kept showing up. If you want to lose weight, you'll need to follow Michelangelo's example. You'll have to stick to that diet and exercise. If you want to quit the liquor for good, you'll have to overcome those cravings. One day at a time. If you want to succeed as an entrepreneur, you'll have to keep swinging the bat every day - weather the ups and downs - day after day.

In all these things, you have to show up - again and again - because that's what separates the ones who succeed from the ones who don't. And that's what Michelangelo can teach us about success. ❖

takes all of these things into consideration before the shutter is even pressed.

When he has visitors in town, Larry first shows them Murphys, in order to give them a feeling of where he "gets to live." Then he shows them the mountains, rivers, lakes and caves of the area - sights and vistas that are fundamentally enriching. They sometimes also give him new photo opportunities. He asks why he would ever go to a local Casino when he has all these natural wonders nearby.



Being a photographer, Larry has a favorite piece of art that is a photo taken in 1937 by photographer Milton Everett Taylor of one of the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge during its construction. It came from a collection that was discovered in a Berkeley, California, home after a recent sale. Larry says he also has a favorite painting of aspen trees by local artist Karen O'Neill that he likes for her use of color, composition and style. ❖

Gallery Artists Include:

Jan Alcalde, Marianna Bologna, Dick Bradford, Marlene Bradford, Kathy Canning, Sarah Evans, Annie Fountain, Carol Goff, Carole Kamerlink, Ron Kamerlink, James Kelly, Susan King, Jane Lucas, Charlotte Mahood, Therese & Steve May, Judy Morgan, Ruth Morrow, Karen O'Neill, Bambi Papais, Duane Papais, Donna Perkins, Marilyn Richards, Helen Scofield, Christine Spracklin, Lori Sturdivant, Sarah Switek, Joani Taylor, Martha Wallace, Vienna Watkins, Larry D. White, and Shirley Wilson-Rose. ❖



Shirley Wilson-Rose

Shirley Wilson-Rose has a blast every day...literally. She etches beautiful works in glass and couldn't do her job without her favorite artist tools - her compressor and pressure pot. She uses them to shoot pressurized

sand at the glass she is carving. When she started her business back in 1979, those tools were borrowed and she learned how to use them from a book. Today there is high demand for such work, and her popular pieces appear in residences and commercial establishments across the country.

Each art piece is custom designed and created by placing a drawing onto a resist material. The resist material adheres to the glass and the design is cut into it. The resist holds tightly while the glass is sandblasted and then releases cleanly and without residue. The process thereby creates a shaded or carved design upon the glass.

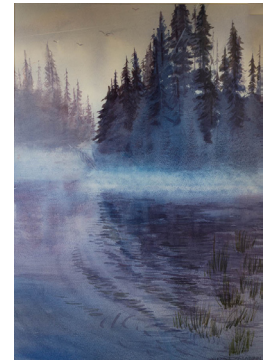


Shirley has a love of nature and specializes in wildlife and floral designs (her favorite place to take people when they visit is Yosemite). She says she often listens to music on Pandora while she works on her designs and likes old rock tunes, blues, jazz and big band music, or, depending on her mood, she might choose folk, classical or swing. She loves to listen to music that makes her peppy, relaxed or reflective.

Shirley moved to Tuolumne County when she was a young girl. She has a story about a favorite piece of art that she owns which connects her to both her mother and brother. It's a black and white photograph of towering oak trees on the Berkeley Campus in 1912. It belonged to a friend of her mother's and hung on the wall in her Twain Harte cabin. When she passed away in the 1980s, she left the photograph, along with a wonderful old wicker chair, to Shirley's brother, who was especially fond of them. Then in the 1990s, she lost her brother during the AIDS epidemic and the photo and chair were left to her and returned to Twain Harte. They now hang above her couch as a reminder of her mother, her mother's friend and her brother. ❖

Vienna Watkins

Vienna is an artist who likes to paint in watercolor and pastel, enjoys painting outside and also teaches art classes. When she paints outside "en plein air", the artist says she meditates, feels the breeze and the sunshine and gets totally involved. Her favorite tool to work with is a 10" sable watercolor brush #30 that is 40 years old! A little fatter than a pencil, Vienna says it does everything for her - skinny lines, fat lines and washes - everything and more.



Asked to describe some of her favorite art, Vienna says she loves the Scandinavian art called Rosemaling. Rosemaling is Norwegian for "decorative painting" and is a decorative folk art from the 1800s.



Traditionally painted on wood, it utilizes stylized flower ornamentation and scrollwork. Immigrants from Scandinavia (it was also common in Sweden), brought it to America, often on beautifully-painted trunks. After losing popularity around 1860, Rosemaling made a comeback in the 20th century and Vienna learned this style of painting. She has numerous examples of it on her walls, cupboards and cabinets at home.

After raising her family, Vienna attended the Art Students League in New York City and took classes at the National Academy of Art and Design. She studied with several recognized artists in Connecticut and exhibited in art shows there before moving to New Mexico and studying pastel for four years. Her return to California gave her the opportunity to study with noted artists such as Dorner Schuler, Dana Sue Palemona and Gerion Rios.

Vienna has made a significant contribution to the arts in Calaveras County. In 1990, along with B.R. Garvin and Donna Perkins, she helped start the Arts of Bear Valley group. She later opened Studio Gallery I in Bear Valley with Bambi and Duane Papais, who had also joined the group. They followed with a second gallery, Studio Gallery II on Main Street in Murphys, which remained open for over 18 years. ❖

Martha Wallace

Artist Martha Wallace likes to tell her students, "It's not the destination, it's the journey." Her watercolor paintings are all about her surroundings and life experiences. In fact, if someone were to visit from out of town, Martha would most assuredly take them to any of the local lakes – Alpine, Spicer, Union or Utica – or perhaps to the Stanislaus River. She loves water and relishes the beautiful area we live in.

Often working in a series, Martha takes her subjects to the limit, going in as many directions as possible. She calls it her "playtime", keeping in mind the technical correctness of her subjects and making adjustments for composition, color, shape, texture, light and shadow. Her series range from birds, nests and feathers to fruits and vegetables or perhaps pottery from the Southwest.

Martha divides her time between painting for herself and for galleries, teaching private classes and also teaching in the local public education programs. She treasures a porcelain palette she was given by a group of her students and says it's something she never would have splurged on herself. She loves it so much that she uses it exclusively and even

takes it, heavy as it is, on her travels out of town.

Many years ago Martha purchased a piece of art from Zoltan Zabo, a well-known watercolorist, whose workshop she took. It was a wonderful workshop, she says, and she took home



many valuable techniques from the kind and soft spoken teacher who has since passed away. At the time, at the beginning of her career, it was a big purchase. Now she smiles every time she walks past the little New England winter scene on her wall. It reminds her of where she started with her medium of choice and how far she has traveled. ❖

Murphys Gold Rush Street Faire

Best known as Grape Stomp, on Saturday, October 3rd, between 10:00 and 6:00, the gallery will have two booths at this year's celebration of the harvest – one with a mingling of art offerings, including prints and cards, and one dedicated to jewelry. ❖

Quarterly Change of Art

Our next change of art in the gallery is October 7, 2015, so please stop in and see our new work. ❖

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bill Pagan of Martinez, CA, the winner of our quarterly drawing. He wins a \$50 Art on Main gift certificate. ❖

Day of the Dead

The annual Day of the Dead celebration in Murphys will be held on Saturday, November 7th, starting at 11:00. This celebration is always a fun event and the gallery will be displaying an altar dedicated to deceased parents of our artists. We will be selling "Day of the Dead" jewelry, as well as art, in honor of this occasion. Stop in for complimentary treats. ❖

Holiday Open House

We will be celebrating the holidays with the rest of the Murphys community on December 4th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Streets are closed and shops stay open. Please come in and see our beautiful holiday offerings, have some cookies and share in the spirit of the season! ❖

ART ON MAIN

a community of artists

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