

Karin Richter Fine Art

Newsletter

Christmas 2021/New Year 2022



"Vermillion Lakes Mood", Pastel, 16"x16"

The year is coming to an end and inspite of Covid, there seems to be a festive spirit in the air! I guess we all have become more resilient and learned to roll with the punches! I trust everyone on this newsletter list is doing well, ready for the holidays!

I like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends and those of you who are or have been students of mine over the years: I consider myself blessed to have spent time with you. Classes are fun because of shared encouragement and laughter. Thank you for the baked goodies that helped when faced with a creative decision. Even though I make my living teaching art classes, it does not feel like a job. My days are filled with happy and generous people. Aside from our mutual enthusiasm for making art, we share personal ties. You share my career triumphs and failures as part of the curriculum. We critique and discuss today's art scene - all this in a few hours per week, while creating the next masterpiece. You are appreciated!

Life has been fairly normal in recent months but unfortunately, the muse has not quite returned! Even though my artistic output has not been great during the last

2 years, I have managed to keep myself engaged in the art scene, participated in shows, written a lot and planned for future projects.

The Toronto Printing House Charitable Christmas Card Campaign is again featuring one of my winter images. I am proud to have been contributing to their important causes for many years.



I am also honoured to once again being featured in the PASTEL JOURNAL with an article on the jurying process “From the Jury Room”:



I consider photography at the root of everything I do. Aside from using it for reference material for subsequent paintings, I practise it as another artform and therefore often enter photography competitions. I am honoured to have again been accepted to show at **In Focus – The Best of Canadian Contemporary Photography** at the Renaissance Hotel (in the Edmonton International Airport) from February to April 2022 with the theme “Time of Our Lives”. It is no surprise that I picked photography from my trip to Antarctica as it certainly was a special time in my life!

These three images were accepted:



The Alberta Society of Artists recently celebrated its 90th anniversary and we did have a party at the ASA gallery at Crossroads Market. It was wonderful to see old

friends and celebrate this milestone. The show is a wonderful collection of works by juried and life members. It will be up until mid-February if you are interested.

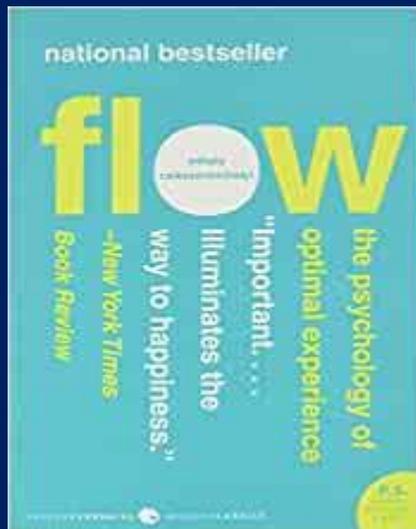


“Overgrown”, Pastel, 16"x20"

Back in November, I listened to a Zoom presentation put on by CARFAC (Canadian Artists Representation) here in Alberta on the subject of the “Psychology of Creativity” by Dr. Maria Owczarek. She based a lot of her research on that done by colleagues like Mihaly Csikszentmichalyi which prompted me to order two of his books:

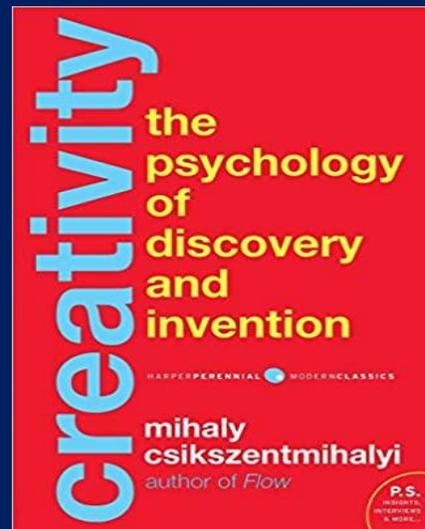
Flow

The Psychology of Optimal Experience



Creativity

The Psychology of Discovery and Invention



The idea of flow is something, we as artists, are well familiar with so it is interesting to find out in these pages what the definition of flow is and how to

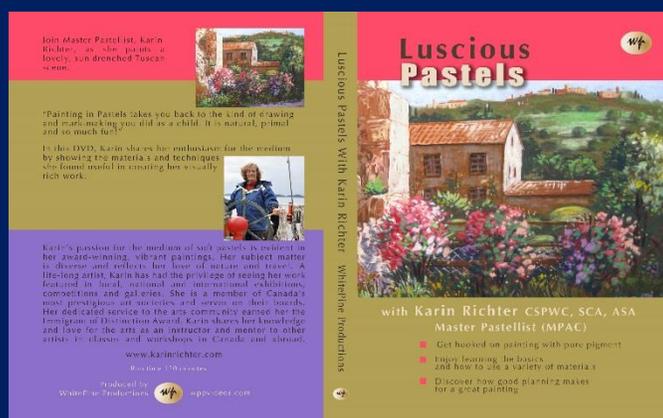
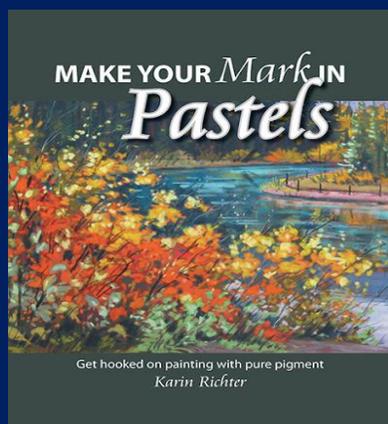
achieve it, creating “optimal experiences”. The author follows up in the second book by letting us enjoy the results of his research about how creativity enriches our lives.

I am always interested in these subjects, especially in light of the still continuing pandemic. It made me realize why my life has turned out the way it has and how lucky we artists are, slumps or not, to be in this business of creativity. Having lived as an artist for all of my life and having taught others for some 30 years of that – so much in these books is revealing but not total news to us. I always knew that although being in the zone may seem magical at times, there is only meticulous execution of what we know, producing the state known as “flow”:

- 1) Do by starting the process
- 2) Practise, practise, practice!
- 3) Connect with nature, meditate
- 4) Play with materials, sometimes outside of your usual practice
- 5) Silence the inner critic by making your critic your coach
- 6) Find like-minded people and meet to connect with, feed of each other

The author of these books summarizes it well this way: “In everyday life, we sometimes feel that the challenges are too high in relation to our skills, and then we feel anxious and frustrated but in “Flow”, we feel that our abilities are well-matched to the opportunities for action”.

Meanwhile, classes will resume as per usual at Parkdale and Strathcona early in the New Year for Watercolours and Acrylics. I am also offering two workshops: **Luscious Pastels on Wednesday, Jan. 5** and an **Acrylics Abstract Workshop on Friday, Jan. 7**, both at Parkdale Nifty Fifties. We might have a couple of spots available, so if you are interested, call the office at **(403)283-0620** to register for some fun early in the New Year! If you cannot attend, there is my Pastel Video and book available on my website.



Painting Holidays are still on but nobody knows at this point what the New Year will bring. Some of these trips are full, others may have a bit of room in them. Always good to sign up as monies will be refunded if things don't work out with the pandemic. For now, let's stay hopeful! It is good to have something to look forward to!

Amalfi Coast/Italy, April 2022

Newfoundland, June 2022

Great Bear Rainforest (Tugboat), June 2022

Le Vieux Couvent/France, October 2022

La Foce/Tuscany/Italy, May 2023

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and every wish come true for 2022! Happy Holidays! Keep healthy and stay safe!

Karin



"Wintry Alley", Acrylic 12"x9"

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