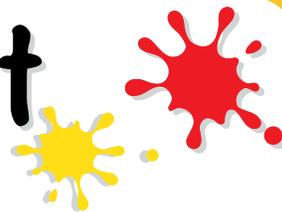




Paintertainment



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GET CONNECTED by Gretchen Fleener

How do I get more connected with the face painting community? It's a question I hear time and again, so I thought it would be a good one to address as we enter spring.

For the purposes of this article I am going to assume you already realize what a huge boost to your business, skills and overall morale it can be to get together and share with fellow artists...yes, even competitors. (If not, read our October 2018 e-newsletter!) Here are a few ways to get connected with other artists.

Where is everyone?

The first step to getting connected locally is to find out who's out there to get connected with, and where they are. You can do this a number of ways: Exchange contact info with artists you work with at other gigs. Even if you are a painter and you meet a magician, chances are they know other artists. Collect cards when attending other local events that have face painters. Search for Facebook groups geared at artists in your state or city, and join! Don't have one? Create one! Having a Facebook group geared towards a certain area is a great first step in getting together in person. For some of you this may be your last step...you may luck out and find that there in fact is a connected group in your area! If this is the case, join in on the discussions and ask around if anyone is hosting any jams soon. If not, you can make that first step!

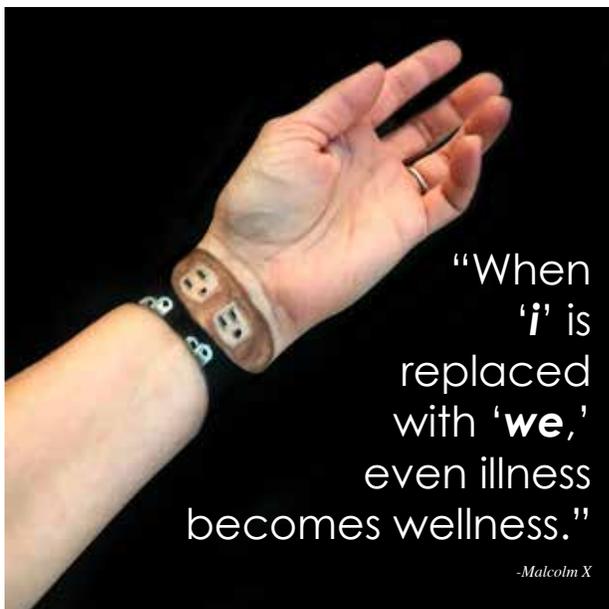
Wanna Come Over to Play?

Finding local artists online is great, but meeting in person is greater. Once you've either found a local Facebook group or created one, use it to create event invites for jams. Find a location convenient for those attending. Try community centers or libraries with rooms

you can rent for free. A friend of mine even schedules jams in a grocery store chain that offers really nice community rooms! Not sure who will show or where is best? Start out at your own home or somewhere nearby!

But what if nobody comes?

I started out my first jam with no expectations of a big crowd. In fact, I set my expectations SO low that I wouldn't mind if nobody even made it. I merely set aside a day to practice



and play with my paints, and decided to invite others to join me in my kitchen if they wanted to. This way I figured even if nobody showed up, I was still going to have some dedicated time to hone my skills and work on new designs. If nobody came, I would still get something out of my focused time, and by holding it at home, I wasn't investing a lot of time driving and reserving a space for just myself. So everyone who rang the doorbell was a bonus! Over the years my jams have grown and I try to schedule one every month.

Some days there are 3 of us, some days there are 12, but every time I learn something new and I am always so glad to have a wonderful community of entertainers!

But I live in the middle of nowhere!

If you truly cannot find a single face painter within driving distance or willing to meet half way, take full advantage to the social aspect of social media and the technology we now have to connect across the country and across the world! Arrange a time to connect face-to-face digitally with other artists you meet online using Skype or Facetime and hold a virtual jam! Create or join a collaboration group on Facebook where you paint regularly along with other artists for a common theme. (Check out the Winter 2017 issue of Wet Paint for a feature article on collaboration groups!)

Social media is a great way to connect without leaving your home, though you do get out of it what you put into it, so you have to ensure that you stay involved!

If all else fails, if you have the means, get yourself to a convention! There are so many conventions held throughout the year all over the country and across the globe that enable you to meet, inspire and be inspired by artists from all over the world. If connection with

fellow artists is what you crave and you live too far away from anyone, traveling may be your best option!

However you have to do it, do what you have to do to connect with those around you and you won't regret it. Even though we find ourselves often working in the midst of crowds of people, our field can feel very lonely at times. Connecting with other artists who share the same passions and problems as you is a gift that keeps on giving! 🌟



What's News?



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Follow us on Facebook to see this and the other pattern studies I've been working on this year, and keep up with the latest!



NEW in the Shop

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