



Paintertainment



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NEVER STOP LEARNING!

by Gretchen Fleener

If you're the smartest person in the room, then you're in the wrong room. This ranks pretty high up there amongst my favorite sayings!

I'm the type of person who has always strived to learn something new. For one of our date nights I signed up my husband and I for a class to learn how to make sushi because our favorite date spot is a local sushi restaurant. We still eat there regularly but now have regular fun nights at home with our family & friends too! When I tasted a real, French macaron, I decided to teach myself how to make them with books, blog posts and years of practice, and now always have a stash in the freezer! When I moved onto a lake I asked my dad to teach me how to fillet a fish. I can proudly say that I can now not only bait the hook & catch a fish, but take it off the hook, fillet it and cook it up for dinner! Boo-yah! For the last few years I've been learning how to be a beekeeper from my dad and beekeeping courses at the University of Minnesota. My point is, there is ALWAYS something cool out there to learn! And my other passions often find their way into my face painting which makes for some really fun inspiration!

Do you feel like you have nothing new to learn in the world of face and body art? Maybe you've been doing this for decades. Heck, maybe you've been *teaching* this stuff for decades! Do you think that attending conventions and workshops is not worthwhile? *Au contraire!* The truth is, we all have something more to learn, even if we have more experience in our field than everyone in the room combined!

One thing I've learned is that when it comes to face painting and body art, the number of days, months, years or even decades you've been doing does not necessarily correlate with how



much wisdom you may have to share.

I host paint jams almost monthly and even though I've been painting for decades, I learn something new every. Single. Time. I kid you not. Usually it's from someone newer to this craft than I. Every time I jam I pick up some cool tip or trick, discover a great new tool, hear about a great upcoming event, make a business connection, discover a helpful app or website, or add something to my Amazon list. We can both instruct and be instructed by our peers formally all we want, but in the end there's

so much more than that simply by interacting together! If you're new to the face and body art world, you have a seemingly endless stream of learning options out there whether it's YouTube, FABATV, conventions, workshops, Wet Paint Magazine, jams or blogs. Dive in and get ready to soak it all up! Feeling confident in one particular area? Branch out into the one that scares you most, not necessarily with the goal of becoming an expert in it, but just the goal of learning more!

On the contrary, if you have been to every convention under the sun and truly feel that you are the smartest person in the painty room, it's definitely time to push yourself! If you're literally in a room full of new painters, before deciding you're in the wrong room, take a second look beyond your fellow artists' number of years in the business. Set egos and preconceived notions aside, find someone you haven't met and introduce yourself! Find out their story, ask what their favorite tool is in their kit, if they've come up with any cool face painting "hacks," what their favorite useful app is, or where they find inspiration. There is a wealth of information around us all the time. All we have to do is open our minds, our mouths, our ears, and take it all in! 🌟

If you're bored this slow season and looking for a new place to learn and grow not only in your painting skills but your business finances, check out the brand new Northern Stars Summit going on this month in Minnesota! Visit www.taletta.com/nn for more information or to register! I hope to see you there!



What's News?



Northern Stars Summit

Learn with me and other awesome instructors Feb 27-Mar 1 in Minnesota! Find out more at www.taletta.com/nss



Coming Soon to the Shop!

Svetlana Keller's awesome Sparkling Faces Practice Boards are on the way! Find them soon in our shop!



Wet Paint Magazine

Got a creatively designed paint kit? Visit WetPaintMagazine.com to submit your own design for a future magazine feature, "Show us your kit!"



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