



# The Shared Easel

Fall/Winter 2009

Volume 4, No. 3

[www.WendyArts.com](http://www.WendyArts.com)

**The Shared Easel**,  
a somewhat quarterly  
newsletter.

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## Creative Challenges

Several years ago, I read a book in which the artist described how she set up an artistic challenge for herself. Although I do not remember the book's title or author I do remember the challenge itself.

She decided to create 100 renderings of a specific coffee cup, using many different styles and mediums. She took that cup with her wherever she travelled and drew, painted, or photographed it in a wide variety of settings.



*"Musical Landscape"*  
16" X 16"

Establishing a personal artistic challenge is a great way to grow your creativity, provide yourself with a focus, and allow the fun of the creative process.

You may not choose to create a series of 100 pieces. but find something that would add joy and interest in your life. Whether you draw, paint, sew write, compose, etc., a challenge gives you the opportunity to try new things and establish a creative flow. See the *Challenge Ideas* on Page 2.

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## New Look for WendyArts.com

*wendy meg siegel*

*Mixed Media Paintings*



WendyArts.com has undergone a transformation. The website not only has a new look, it has an ease of navigation, new gallery setup, the capacity to display more images, PayPal capability, and a *Music in Art* gallery. It will be so easy for me to update, add to and make changes on this Web site.

**[Check out the new look at WendyArts.com.](http://www.WendyArts.com)**

“Selecting a challenge and meeting it creates a sense of self-empowerment that becomes the ground for further successful challenges.”

- Julia Cameron

## *Creative Challenge Ideas*

Whether you are looking for a way to express your creativity, are facing a creative block, or you are searching for a new creative adventure, consider giving yourself the gift of a Creative Challenge. Come up with one on your own or find ideas online.

The first thing to do is to decide on a plan or a goal. What type of creative projects bring you joy? Is there a project that you have wanted to accomplish?

Once you have a project in mind, think through what it will take to succeed in your goal.

- ♦ Are you setting a timeframe for your challenge? (Within a month, week, day or year)
- ♦ What can you do to help achieve this goal?
- ♦ What location would best support your creative flow?
- ♦ Will it help to establish a specific place and time?
- ♦ What steps are needed to complete your project?
- ♦ What changes might you make in your life to help make space for this creative opportunity?
- ♦ And how soon do you plan to start?

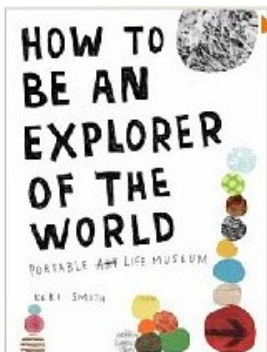
A project could be as simple as setting aside time to draw every Friday or as involved as getting the book you've wanted to write, ready for publication by this time next year.

For some ideas on creative projects, [click here](#).



*“Theme and Variation #4”  
8” X 8”  
Acrylic and papers  
on canvas*

## *Books to Consider: Creative Inspiration*

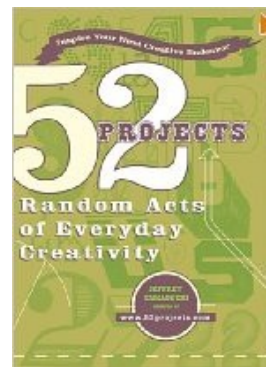


[How to Be An Explorer Of the World](#) by Keri Smith

Readers are encouraged to explore their world, to observe, take notes, collect things, document findings, notice patterns, copy, trace, focus on one thing at a time and record what you are drawn to.

[52 Projects : Random Acts of Everyday Creativity](#)  
by Jeffrey Yamaguchi

52 simple and fun ideas act as inspiration for the reader. It is filled with a diverse collection of creative projects...writing, painting, drawing, sculpting, dancing, cooking, photographing, music, and more.



## *Summer Issue of the Shared Easel*

If you were wondering what happened to the [Summer Issue](#) of the Shared Easel. It was posted back in July but I never sent out the e-mail notice. Oops. Here's what you'll find in that issue:

Music and Art  
Choices: Not So Black and White  
Books - People Living Creative Lives  
Online Art Activity  
My New Online Creativity Page: "Just Create"  
What Others Are Doing: Creative Every Day  
Batik Projects

[Click Here to Read The Summer Shared Easel.](#)

## *Online Educational Art Activity*

[The Getty Museum](#) has several kid oriented art games at their site. The choices include:

- ◆ Detail Detective—choosing the detail which matches the full piece of art
- ◆ Match Madness—an art matching game
- ◆ Switch—finding the changes that have been made to the artwork
- ◆ Jigsaw Puzzles—choose the number of pieces in your jigsaw puzzle and put it back together by clicking and dragging the pieces with your mouse. This was my personal favorite.
- ◆ Make Art at Home—instructions are provided for three activities to do on your own.

## *What Others Are Doing*

### [EarthPresents.com](#)

Earth Presents produces 100% recycled and recyclable wrapping paper.

The reason I am mentioning [EarthPresents.com](#), is because their wrapping paper designs are inspired by the artwork of special needs students. These art students with special talents are part of a unique nonprofit organization called [WVSA, Arts Connection](#), located in Washington, DC.

And a portion of the proceeds from every sale of their products, helps benefit the WVSA's School for Arts in Learning.

### [20 Incredible LEGO Artworks by Nathan Sawaya](#)

See what Nathan Sawaya can build with LEGOS.



## *Kid Stuff: Projects With Photos*

Whether they use a digital camera or take photos with film, kids enjoy photography. Here are some fun photo related activities for the children in your life.

**A Day in My Life: A Photo Collage for Journal or Scrapbook**—This involves a child carrying a camera around all day, taking photos wherever they go and whatever they do. Once a number of favorite images have been printed, they create a collage as a visual reminder of the day.

**Mystery Photo Challenge**—Kids take photos of common, everyday items, using close up views and unusual camera angles. The goal is to make it difficult for others to identify the object. Then the images can be viewed on a PC, if taken with a digital camera, while family and friends try to guess what they are looking at.

**Backseat Photo Scavenger Hunt**—If your kids get restless on a road trip, make up a list of items for them to find and photograph as you drive. Have them use a digital camera and make sure you bring an extra battery and the battery recharger.

# HP.com

HP has a webpage designed to provide tips and ideas for getting your kids started with digital photography.

[Click Here to Read Their Suggestions.](#)

## Links

[The Shared Easel Blog](#)

[Buddha Art by Wendy Meg Siegel](#)

[Southwest Art by Wendy Meg Siegel](#)

[JUST CREATE: Express Your Creativity](#)



*Look for this in the next issue of  
The Shared Easel  
Spring 2010*

- ◆ Environmentally Friendly Art Supplies
- ◆ More on Music and Art
- ◆ What Others Are Doing
- ◆ Books, Links and More

CHECK OUT THE [GALLERIES](#), [STORES](#),  
AND [E-CARDS](#)

AT [WWW.WENDYARTS.COM](http://www.WendyArts.com)

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