

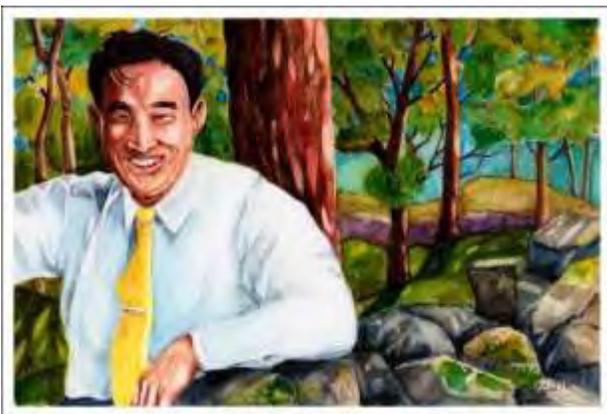
Art is one of the most magical gifts we have

Elaine Cox
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Art is one of the most magical gifts we have. I've always been a painter, but as of last fall, I've been very lucky to have a new studio space to paint in, a short walk from our home in semi-rural New Hampshire.

Dr. Yong frequently talks about jeongseong in Morning Devotion: commitment, sincerity, investment. The result is fruitfulness in any field of human endeavor and I've been discovering its power in my work as a painter.



First of all I revel in the process of creation itself - the playfulness, mess, freedom and search for beauty, and the development of new skills.

Marc Chagall: *"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing."*

Some subjects are more challenging than others, especially commissions, when the subject is not familiar. Sometimes I get discouraged. However, effort is never wasted but makes a foundation for later work.



Kimon Nicolaides: *"The sooner you make your first five thousand Mistakes, the sooner you will be able to correct them."*

Some days I'm barely inching forward. Other days, when I'm immersed in the work, I lose track of time and a deeper reality emerges.



The more I can express the love, life, beauty, personality and complexity of God's amazing world and its people, the more joy I have as an artist and as a person. When others also derive joy from it, I'm very grateful.

So, thank you for letting me share some of my art and thoughts with you.



Let me close with a final passage from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's much longer poem, "Morituri Salutamus, that he read at the 50th reunion of his class of 1825 at Bowdoin College:

"What then? Shall we sit idly down and say
The night hath come: for it is no longer day?
The Night hath not yet come; we are not quite
Cut off from labor by the failing light;
Something remains for us to do or dare;
Even the oldest tree some fruit may bear;"

May we all continue bearing fruit as long as we live, both here and in the next world!