

# HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR CLASSES AT CONVENTION!

**DAIC MEMBER INFORMATION ARTICLE #2**

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## How do I choose a class at Convention?

There are so many different types of classes offered at convention.

**Special events** will normally draw a large number of students as they are offering a variety of techniques or products. They normally do not specify a certain level of achievement. You could be a beginner or you could be advanced. These are really good value for the cost as they have company sponsors. They allow you to receive a lot of information in a short time. You may or may not complete a project but you will learn.

**Regular Classes** will be the individual classes which have a project and you choose depending on the medium that you wish to do and also depending on your comfort level and whether you feel that you are a beginner, intermediate or advance level artist.

**Theory Classes** will be classes that explain a specific theory or method and will not necessarily have a specific project but may involve several exercises or mini projects to be done to ensure that you understand the theory. These classes can be really interesting and bring knowledge to why you paint as you do or how an artist determines the colours or shading of a project.

**Then there are many different medias - drawing, scratch art, watercolour, acrylics, oils, mixed media and everything under the sun to make your time enjoyable.**

## **IMPORTANT**

It is important to remember that there are varying factors that will determine whether a project is fully completed in class. It will depend on the students; it will depend on whether the objective was to teach a new technique like feathers and whether everyone grasps the technique. You can email an artist and ask whether they think the project will be completed in class. Remember all classes that you take will be a learning experience and the objective is not always to complete the project but to have a good understanding of the technique.

## **How to Make a Decision**

You have viewed the beautiful catalogue. Oh, there are so many classes and such wonderful designs. How do you make a choice?

## **Ask yourself the following questions**

What do I want to achieve from the convention?

Have I always admired a certain artist's technique and want to learn from them?

What level of an artist am I? Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced?

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Do I want to take a class at a higher level to challenge myself knowing that I might not be ready but I will be learning.

Is it a media that I have not tried and wish to attempt? **Convention classes are the most cost effective method of finding out whether watercolours or pen & ink are something that you might enjoy without taking a full blown course.**

Do I just love the project?

Am I the type of person that needs to fully complete the project in class?

**Now you have narrowed down the choices**

If you have chosen a class and it is a higher level than you feel that you are at then are you must be willing to accept the fact that you might not be able to keep up and be willing to take notes and learn and finish it at home.

If you have chosen a new media, you must accept the fact that even at a beginner class you will not be perfect and that it is a learning experience. You might be advanced in acrylics but have never tried drawing so you might not be fantastic the first time around.

Do not become discouraged if you feel that you are slower than others. Everyone works at a different pace so do not feel pressured.

**MOST IMPORTANT**

***Chose what appeals to you, learn new skills and enjoy the experience.***

***You can always email a teacher with your questions to determine if this is the class for you.***

***Remember that the teachers are there to teach and share their experiences and skills and most want you to complete the project but the main objective is to teach the technique.***

***The above article was researched and compiled by DAIC Assistant General Manager Nancy Maxsom.***

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