

## AN ARTIST'S PERSONAL INVENTORY

*This questionnaire is designed as a self-evaluation instrument. There are no right or wrong answers, only honest ones. More than one answer might be given to any question.*

1. The most recurring theme in my painting is...  

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2. My interpretation of this theme favors...
  - a. Painting particular subjects as they appear, recording their visual qualities as accurately as possible.
  - b. Paintings which seek to capture the essence, rather than the particulars of a subject.
  - c. Exaggeration of elements in the subject for dramatic effect.
  - d. A painting which allows the medium and formal qualities (e.g. line, color, texture, and composition) to dictate its development.
  - e. Symbolism as an organizing principle.
  - f. Other.
3. My interpretations are guided by the belief that...
  - a. There is an ideal solution, and although I may not realize it, it motivates my efforts.
  - b. Nature holds the answers and I should allow my intuition to express my natural feelings.
  - c. I am morally obligated to bring order out of chaos.
  - d. Reason is superior to passion.
  - e. Other.
4. My mission is...
  - a. to create a work of ART.
  - b. to create stepping stones.
  - c. to support myself through my artwork.
  - d. to communicate ideas which are primarily: \_\_\_ Visual. \_\_\_ Conceptual. \_\_\_ Other
  - e. Through spontaneous response to what is happening in the work.
  - f. Compete with a flatbed scanner.
6. My techniques...
  - a. Dominate my approach.
  - b. Conform to the subject or idea being expressed.
  - c. Develop from the inherent properties of the medium.
  - d. Mirror my mentor's techniques.
  - e. Bring levity to any group situation.
7. My techniques are based on...
  - a. Traditional painting techniques.
  - b. "How to do it books".
  - c. A composite of techniques seen in workshops.
  - d. Personal experimentation.
  - e. Other.
8. I value art work which...
  - a. is a literal interpretation of the subject matter.
  - b. reveals as much about the artist as the subject.

- c. makes me comfortable.
  - d. solicits a "WOW!"
  - e. I don't understand, or even dislike.
9. I favor ideas which...
- a. Express places and things.
  - b. Make a social comment.
  - c. Are psychological.
  - d. Deal with fantasy.
  - e. Are primarily visual.
10. I favor forms which are...
- a. Geometric. b. Organic. c. Flat. d. 3 D
  - e. Ambiguous f. Simple. g. Complex
11. Of the following formal qualities, I give primary attention to...
- a. Line b. Form c. Space d. Value e. Color f. Surface g. Edge h. Light and Shade i. Rhythm j. Composition
12. These formal qualities tend to...
- a. Be a kind of formula which I follow, regardless of the subject or idea involved.
  - b. Change with the idea being expressed.
  - c. Have only a secondary importance to me.
  - d. Are seldom a consideration, since I am guided only by the subject matter.
  - e. Be my primary consideration.
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The visual phenomenon which I consciously present in my work is...
- a. Transparency b. Translucency c. Varied Surfaces d. Atmosphere e. Light and Shade f. Vanishing Boundaries g. I'm not concerned with such elements.
14. I regard the picture plane as...
- a. A window to the world, and I attempt to represent the world in its full three dimensional reality.
  - b. A flat surface on which pigment is applied.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
15. I consider space as...
- a. Both positive and negative form, and regard each as equals.
  - b. Something which must be filled.
  - c. That empty portion of a painting which serves the primary element, i.e. positive form.
  - d. "Less is more."
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Shapes and forms in my painting...
- a. Are always darker than the surrounding space or forms.
  - b. Are sometimes darker, sometimes lighter than the surrounding areas.
  - c. Are one solid value within their configuration.
  - d. Often vary in value as their light intensity gradates from one value to another.
17. My color selection is guided by...
- a. A desire to faithfully copy the color of the subject.
  - b. Personal preference.
  - c. The idea.

- d. Interior decorating requirements.
  - e. The interaction of color. (Josef Albers)
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
18. I would prefer to hear comments about my paintings which say...
- a. "A master of the medium!"
  - b. "An interesting picture which looks so real!"
  - c. "Personally I don't like it, but it opens a whole new way of experiencing our world."
  - d. "I don't know much about art, but..."
  - e. "What is it?"
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Of the following comments, the valid criticisms are...
- a. "I like it!"
  - b. "His painting is interesting, but carries no social message."
  - c. "There's technical competency, but that's all."
  - d. "He should have used brighter colors".
  - e. "His colors never vary, regardless of the location or idea."
  - f. "He should not paint the same thing so many times."
  - g. "I'm waiting for some dramatic changes in his work following all of those workshops, but..."
  - h. "I think I see what he's trying to do, but did he do it?" ... "and if he did do it, how worthwhile was it to do?"
20. My answers in this questionnaire were dictated by...
- a. What I thought I should say.
  - b. Pure chance.
  - c. The belief that I, and I alone, possess the insight and natural talent to create without such foolish, soul-searching accounting of what would better be left to intuition (where it exists in its natural state in the God given abilities of we who modestly confess lists my name in the Ledger Of God's Chosen Few).
  - d. The hope that with this behind us, we might return to the comforts of creating what sells!