

MoxieBox University

"It takes time to create excellence. If it could be done quickly, more people would do it." – John Wooden

Happy New Year Artists! There are several objectives MoxieBox Artistic Director has in mind for you this year. Moxie University expects our artists to understand how important it is to take your time and slow down your process. It is called pacing. What does that mean?

- Take a look at the very first page. Look at the two tents. It is crazy to think that the 1st tent and the 2nd tent was done by the same person within just a few minutes of each other.
- How? Well, tent 1 took three minutes and tent 2 took fifteen minutes. Which would you rather visit?
 - When you take your time, you move to a different level of artistry.
 - It is time to challenge yourself to take the time to *create excellence*.

MoxieBox realizes that everyone is looking for the fastest internet speed. The faster the internet speed, the more successful we feel. We'd like to separate this feeling of success to how an artist truly feels success. Success comes over time for an artist. It is not about speed, winning, or first place pace! It is about creating personal excellence over whatever time it takes. Art is about what and how a piece is created – not how fast!

It took Vincent van Gogh 12 months to paint The Starry Night.



Leonardo da Vinci took 4 years to paint the Mona Lisa.



Vintage art reflects the spirit of time. We know you will be proud of your final expression of your personal Vintage Circus art piece. It is our goal that you pace yourself and realize why professional artists could take years to finish their finest works of art.

Moxie U

The circus has excited and intrigued the public for hundreds of years. The first circuses took place back in ancient Rome. At that time the circus was similar to the Greek Hippodrome -- the official venue for gladiator battles, war reenactments, chariot races, and horse races. The modern circus dates back at least three hundred years to the mid-1700s in London when the standard attractions of clowns, acrobats and animal acts were included.

The Circus

One of the roles of the artist is to reflect reality, the society and the times that he or she resides in. The objective is to capture the lives of the extraordinary as well as the ordinary in society, to expose the raw reality of life itself. *Antoine Watteau* famously painted stage icons of the early eighteenth century. The sheer excitement and visual wonder of the circus was depicted by some artists of the mid to late 1800s. These artists of the Impressionist movement were some of the first to try to capture the essence of the spirit and visual excitement of the circus on canvas. Included in the artists' depictions was the circus' magical nature as well as the drudgery and physical toll that such a life imparted on the performers.

George Seurat was fascinated by the Circus Corvi at place de la Nation, which was located in a working-class quarter of eastern Paris. Here we see a nighttime circus sideshow scene, a mysterious and enigmatic environment with indoor lighting.





Henri de Toulouse - Lautrec was a very interesting character. He was born with disfigured legs and was only 4 feet tall. Because of his “outsider” and handicapped status he felt a kinship with people on the periphery of society, with the more strange and edgy elements of life. He loved to attend the circus and made many memorable depictions of the performers and the highs and lows of circus life. He made these images while in the hospital. He executed them entirely from memory.



A more modern illustration comes from *Alexander Calder*. Calder was a true Renaissance man whose work included painting, prints, and sculptures. He popularized the mobile and the “stable”. He loved the loud, passionate world of the theatre and the circus. He designed sets and costumes for various plays. Here is an example of the pure joy he attributed to the circus.

Glossary: Hippodrome, Spectacle, Theatrical, Ostentatious, Carnival, Drudgery

Challenge Activity: Design a circus. Make a list of characters and acts. Design the costumes and the events. What is the significance of each act? What does the total production say about life?