

## Sherrie Lovler Workshop

To kick off a “perfect Spring”, the first weekend in April was Sherrie Lovler’s Visual Journey Workshop. It was an eye opening experience for many of us. Sherrie brought a new light to the subject of layout and design with her insight on color harmony using the Elements and Principles of Design. With 18 eager attendees in tow, we started off with a warm welcome and everyone introduced themselves. Although, most of us were veterans to the workshop scene, there were a few “newbie’s” as well as members from Houston. Her welcome strategy helped break the ice!

We began with a slideshow on her laptop (using the guild’s newly purchased digital projector) on the Elements of Design showing beautiful photos that Sherrie shot herself (for the most part) exemplifying line, shape, size, texture, color, space and value. Each were identified in a beautiful way through illustration and explanation

These are the fundamental parts used to make a composition, which we were to learn by the end of this workshop. Seeing the elements as just a part of nature, it made more sense that it was all around us.... we just had to stop and look!

Learning to mix colors to get “GRAY” was enlightening. I always thought that if one wanted gray you would just take out your “Payne’s Gray” tube or watered down Sumi Ink with water! THESE grays that we mixed were full of texture and warmth, dimension and depth. It’s no secret, you just need the formula! We used the same three colors that we chose to go in our pieces mixed together to get the grays and the hues within. That way... it was harmonious and everything would go together. She stated that there was “No WRONG color”, but there is a way to get the “RIGHT” color for an intended piece... clear of the “mud” that sometimes happens by unknowingly mixing the “wrong” colors together. There were light bulbs going off all around the room as we did exercises to get BOTH grays... the wrong and the “right” one. It was clear when you saw it directly on your paper in front of you! Other exercises throughout the weekend included us getting in touch with our “feelings”! The “tone” of the piece has to come from an emotion such as sadness, joy, love, anger, etc. and she had us all dig deep to FIND

that passion we wanted to express. It was hard at first, but once we had the right tools, it was more easily achieved.

Saturday night, after a long day, a few of us treated Sherrie to Chuy’s for dinner. We were all pretty tired, but it was nice getting to know her a little better through that socialization away from the workshop.

On the second day, Sherrie led us down her “latest journey” that should be (and will be— if Sherrie can find a publisher) made into a book or put on television, showcasing her intriguing story through “Match.com”...the internet dating service. She met her current beau on the internet and she shared the intimate details of their story through her art. It was all spelled out by the artist interpretations of poems that were exchanged within the first few weeks of meeting via emails. When Sherrie was asked to do an exhibit, these poems came to mind. They needed at least 12 pieces for the exhibit in 2 short months. Needless to say, she worked

night and day during that time and she brought us with her every step of the way by photographing her process in stages, depicting her successful layouts and “misfires”, the reasoning of design and color to get her point across on certain ones, all the while reading the words which were awe inspiring and even brought tears to my eyes! I think many could relate to them and many more could feel her heartfelt expression with each pen stroke and color choice. I know that many of us were envious of such a love story! It was so powerful because she used the very principles that she was teaching us to use to arrive at the destination through her own “Journey of Life” Experiences.

At the end of this workshop, we critiqued our own work and others’ to determine whether our intentions were met while trying to relay the tone of the piece and asking ourselves that eternal question... “Is it “done””? Sherrie says, “There is no way around the curves and obstacles on the path; they are part of the creative journey.” We navigated the road, began to trust our intuition and accessed the confidence that we need to take the next step in unleashing our expressive powers! Thank YOU, Sherrie—and to Loretta, too, for bringing her into our world. *Trish Taylor*

