Links

Realmscapes:
https://realmscapes.world



The blog:
https://realmscapes.world/rants-and-ramblings-blog/

Pumpkin Night:
https://realmscapes.world/pumpkin-night/

A chance to give something back:
https://realmscapes.world/a-chance-to-give-something-back/

The engineer in my sketchbook:
https://realmscapes.world/the-engineer-in-my-sketchbook/

Patreon:
https://www.patreon.com/cw/annettezimmerman

More about FADE: Formal Art & Design Education
https://www.fadeinit.org/

Instagram: @annette.zimmerman.artist



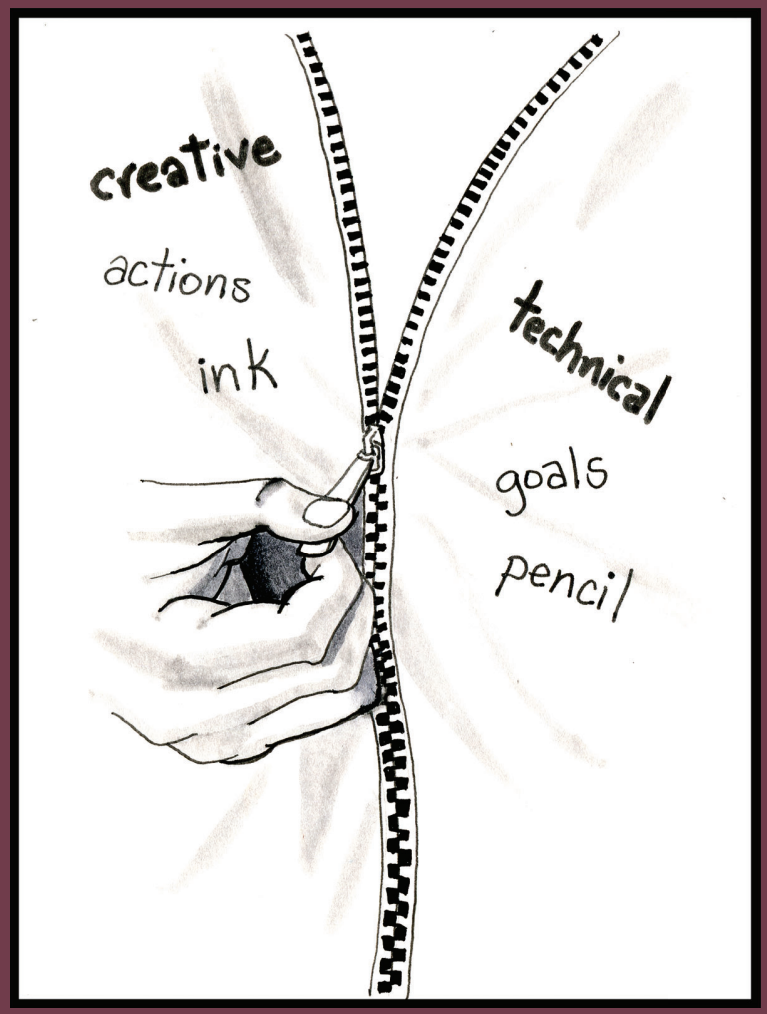
Happy November!



Thanks for reading!

Realmscapes

Dispatch 11.26



Coming Together

The Footnote



Happy November, Friends!

Wow. We're almost to the end of another year. There's a beautiful sadness to that thought, if only because this year has been so good in so many ways. But we aren't there yet, so let's talk about October.

A-Ha!

This month brought an "a-ha" moment: my creative side enjoys being analytical. I'd thought I had to choose between precise, realistic artwork and throwing rules to the wind. Neither was quite the cat's meow.



Turns out, I enjoy looking, trying, analyzing, and changing things. That investigation is part of the creative pleasure. My engineering self and my artist self can work together.

Looking back through recent Dispatches, I can see how I got here. Loosening up, simplifying, and releasing expectations made room to recognize what I actually enjoy. It feels serendipitous, but I should probably give myself some credit for the work behind it. Even an obliging muse needs something to work with.

Now I have a new path to explore. Can't wait to see where it leads.

Have you had an "a-ha" moment in your own creative practice? I hope November brings you something worth discovering.

Until next time,

Anni

The Quest Ahead

The coming month is going to be busy. Work and vacation will take up a lot of it. I want to focus on Sketch Season, but there are higher priorities. I almost wish Sketch Season had come earlier in the year, say at the beginning of summer, when life was a lot slower.

Still, things are progressing, albeit slowly. I'm on the drafting stage of A Key for a Broken Song now, and expect that will take a few months. I've got winter stickers planned, but need to draw them out and make them. I plan on continuing to work with FADE.

I love being busy, I love staying creative, and I love learning new things about myself even as I'm living into my later chapters.

This story ain't over yet.

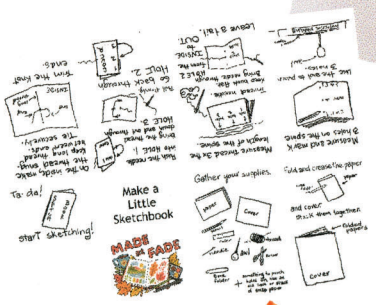


Lessons from the Road



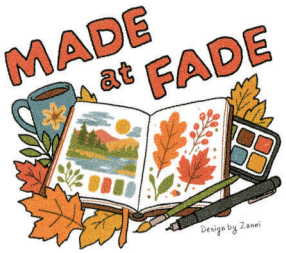
Pencil ↑ Studies ←





A mini-zine →

A Sticker →



Recent Adventures

On the Blog



The story behind the print...how I was inspired to make Pumpkin Night.



I found a way to give back, starting with a simple class.

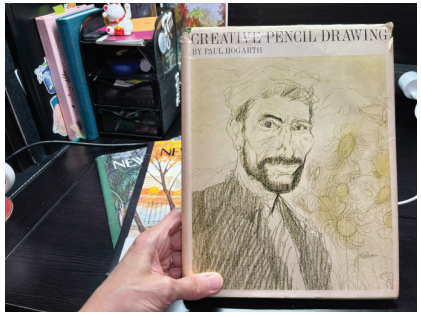


An a-ha moment that helps me combine my analytical & creative selves.

At Patreon

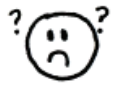
Learning to see the lines

I used AI to do a Master study, discussed how it went and why you should try it.



The Quest

The morning after working a shift for CLUE, I wanted to run on the treadmill. But I had another shift that evening, followed by a third the next day. Perhaps this wasn't the moment to see how much I could accomplish before breakfast.



I took an easy walk instead. After the second shift, I felt less drained, and I had enough energy for the third. October required that kind of adjustment: keeping up with paid work, maintaining my health, exploring art, and contributing to FADE, while leaving myself some downtime. I started wearing a mask again in crowded public places, too. Staying well was part of keeping things going.



Balance

Camping provided the only days this month when I didn't feel pressured to work. I'd brought materials for pencil studies and wanted to make the most of that time. With AI providing guidance like a personalized lesson, I could spend less time deciding what to do and more time drawing. I enjoyed myself and came home having learned something.



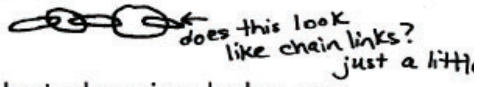
At FADE, I taught a sketchbook-making class. I felt that a couple of people connected with it. If they discovered that making a useful sketchbook could be simple and inexpensive, that made the preparation worthwhile.

Meanwhile, I kept asking questions about my own art: Do I enjoy doing this? Which part? Why?!!

Sketch Season's second session emphasized thumbnails, form drawing, and tonal studies. These were familiar activities, but paying attention revealed how much I enjoyed figuring out a composition, exploring possibilities, and planning before starting a piece. I loved the line work, too.



Then the connection happened. This was analytical work, and I enjoyed it.



Last year, I recognized that planning helps me feel happy in my life. Somehow, I hadn't carried that understanding into making art. Exploring and planning help me feel that I've made something well. They're part of the pleasure.



Looking back, there's a familiar pattern. As an engineer and project manager, I'd felt stagnant until I started writing proposals. That work brought my writing into engineering, and suddenly I felt I'd found a calling.

Now I'm bringing the engineer into my creative work. That's this month's treasure: recognizing how much I enjoy having both parts of myself involved.

