

designing your artist's journal pages —Part Two

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I had to break this into two documents, my old computer's just not up to the big stuff any more!

DESIGN #17 fills almost the whole page with your art; your notes or observations could overlap it, as long as you keep the colors light enough.

I like the additional notes on an angle at the bottom!

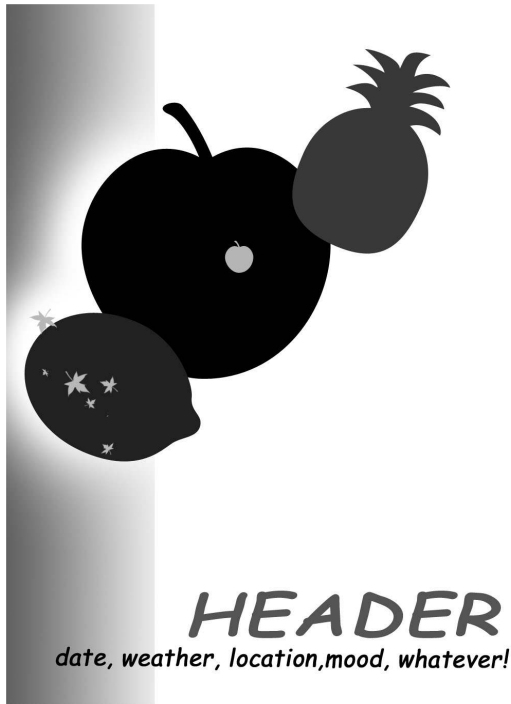


your art here

date, weather, location, mood, whatever!

I let the watercolor sketch fill the whole page here, with only a few notes at the bottom...I decided against a border on this one...

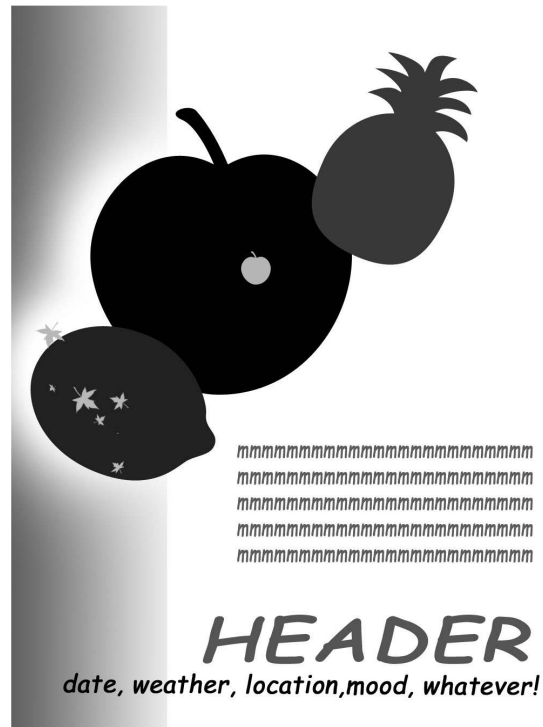
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DESIGN #18 uses a bar of “color” on the side again, to help unify the page. You can leave a lot of white space, which is very pleasing...

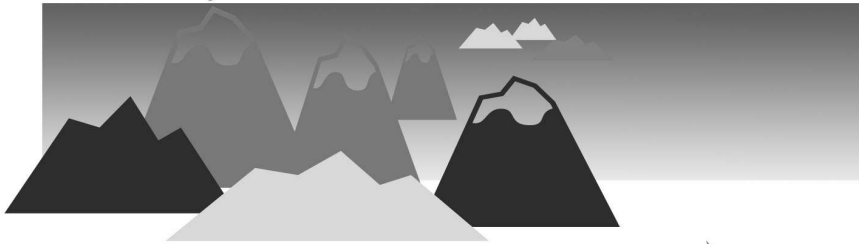
...or you can add notes, as you like.

Again, the text can be used to balance the composition...think of weight, value, or color when considering this balance. *Sometimes just a touch of the same color as that you used in your art provides a lovely balance.*



NOTE: As always, the vertical layouts can be used horizontally, as well...just use the same principles of design!

Our Trip to the Mountains

[illegible]

date, weather, location, mood, whatever!

#19 uses a smaller, related element to balance the art that goes across the top of the 2-page spread. The notes at lower right work to balance, too.

Again, that field of color (the sky in this case) acts to unify the elements.

I added a field of bright orange color later to make a nice vibration for Winston and Oliver, my buddy Keith's dogs. A bit of the same orange on the floor worked to unify the page, too...



Color proves much of the unity across the 2-page spread here, supplemented by bits of text.



I let the color provide the unity here, too...though really, the header would have worked better on the lower right, balancing the warmer colors of the three people at left. I'd already sketched in the praying gentleman and the view from the plane window at lower right, so I put it where I had room.

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A Selection of Writing Instruments

reflects the eclectic tastes of a private collector - only the nib is my own; a gift from a fellow enthusiast (read "fanatic.")

this piece holds firm during set-piece!

new piece-holds firm during set-piece!

this nib is marked Joseph Gillotte - unusual 4-hole construction of reservoir

embossed fleur-de-lis on obverse

living on base carries handle

metal-finished silver?

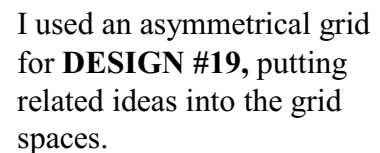
Pierre-maché writing attache - hand-blown bottle - 18th C.

strips on reverse

There were 68 different styles of pen nibs abroad.

This dainty gold pen is in the "Treasures of the Steamboat Arabia" Museum - Kansas City, Missouri.

The boat sank in 1856, loaded with cargo, the museum is a time capsule.

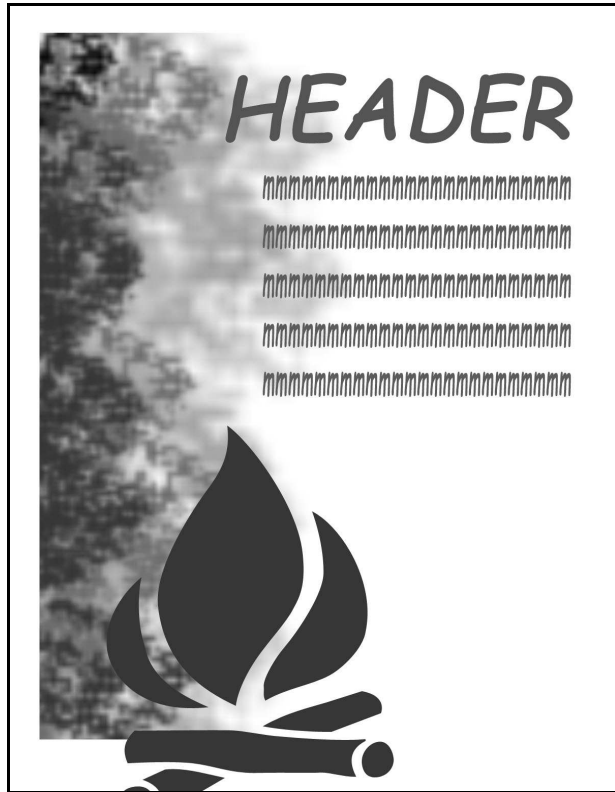
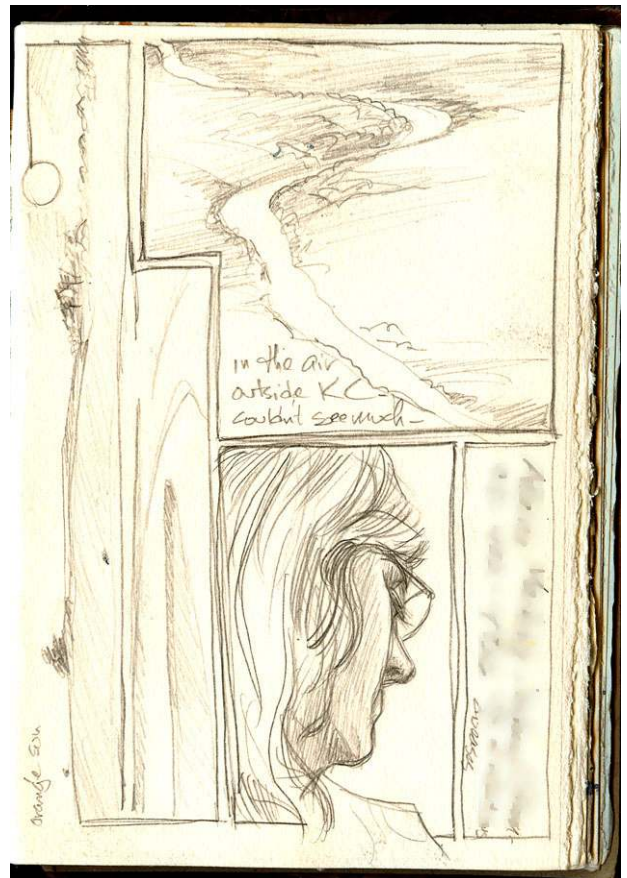


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Grids are a fun way to get a lot of images on a page. They don't need to be rigid, uniform grids, of course. Items in the grid can be related or not, as you choose! Sometimes I use a grid for a week's worth of sketches, when I know I'm going to be too busy to sketch much—just fill each little rectangle with an image that captures something of my day.

At right, I used grids or boxes to design a trip to the west coast...the view from the runway, one from the air, and my seat-mate, sleeping.

I blurred her name and telephone number to protect her privacy.



DESIGN #20 is back to the bar of “color” down one side...here, the header and text balance the art (campfire), which is allowed to extend off the page. Letting your art hang off the journal page invites the viewer to complete the image—it feels intimate and real!

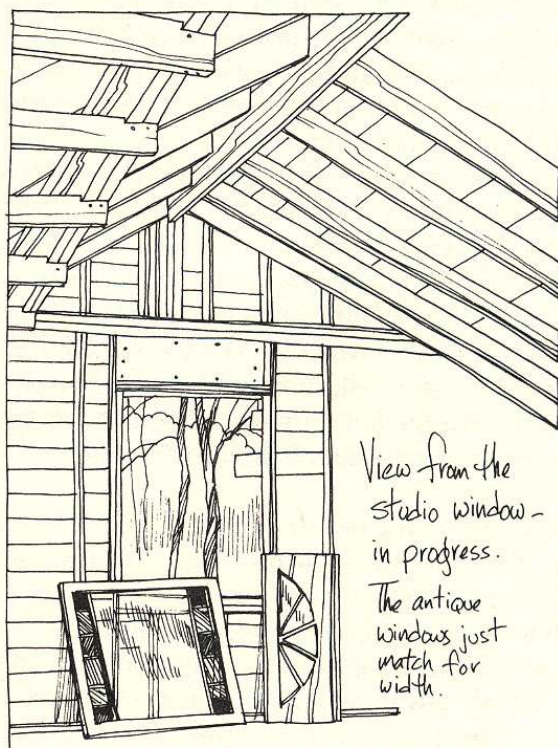
I added the narrow black border to illustrate how the sticks in the fire extend below the page.

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Here, Merlin runs off the page for an interesting effect, with the vertical header providing balance...

I used partial borders in the page at left to contain my sketch, and let the angles of construction make the borders on the right. It's dynamic and interesting!



Here, different sizes make a page more interesting, and colors tie them together...

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And just for fun—here's how one of my pages came about, roughly step-by-step. I was painting the first crocus in my back yard, and sat out on the deck to work...drew in the shapes of the little flowers and painted the leaves with my re-purposed Prang set and a round brush.



I painted around the little pistils and stamens, and did the initial washes on the purple—this was mostly quinacridone red and cobalt blue...

I set off the flowers with a suggestion of the dark soil and old grass blades, just painting around the leave and flower shapes.



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I added the headline at upper right, picking up the same colors on the same round brush, added a bit of sky with the returning turkey vultures to the left of the flowers, and added the robins that were singing in the back yard...

I added notes on the day, the sights I saw, my feelings, and called it done.

Yep, that IS my to-do list at upper left! I really do like these integrated pages—the list was there first, and I added the more colorful stuff around and under it.



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