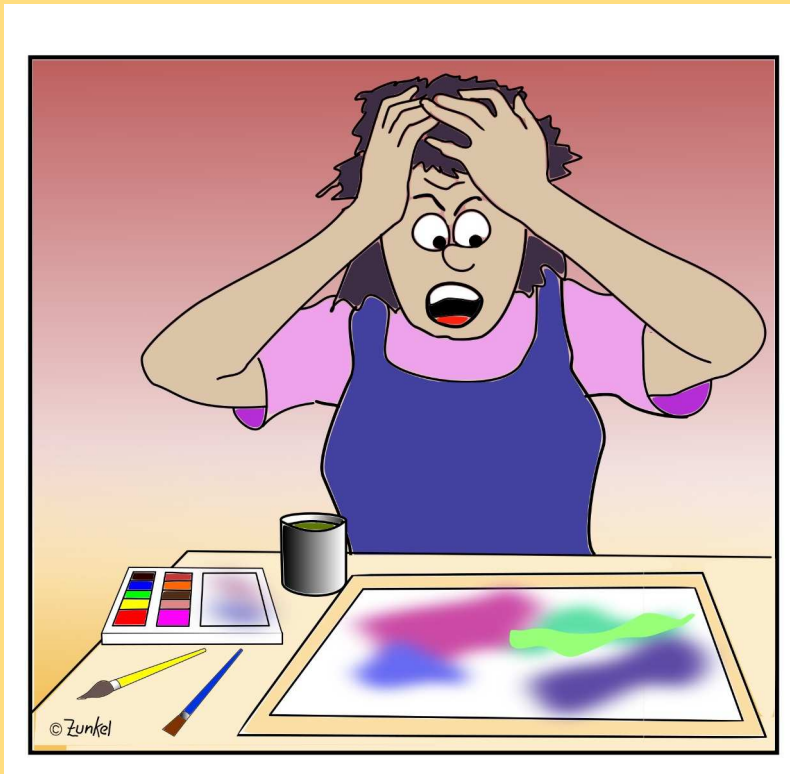


# Breathing Out



Plain Air Cartoons 2020 - 2022

by Dick Zunkel

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## Forward

The years 2020 and 2022 were dark days as COVID 19 spread across the world. The Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society canceled nearly all gatherings. "Zoom" became the platform for demonstrations. Yet, the newsletter and web site continued on as "normal" After a five year run, "Plain Air" has retired. This book contains the cartoons from those dark years.

Dick Zunkel

# Plain Air



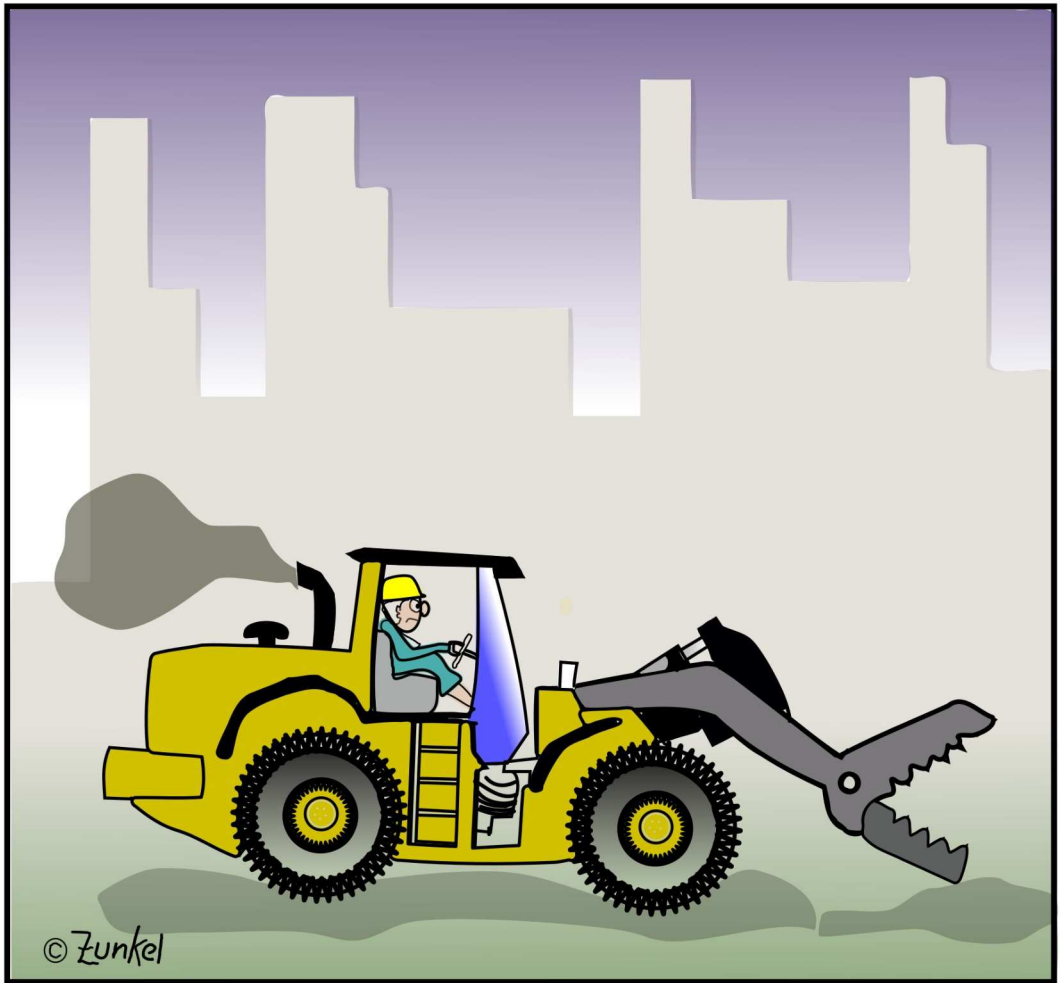
*"This is 'The Scream' circa 21st century!"*

# Plain Air



*The hazards of painting plain air in Silicon Valley*

# Plain Air

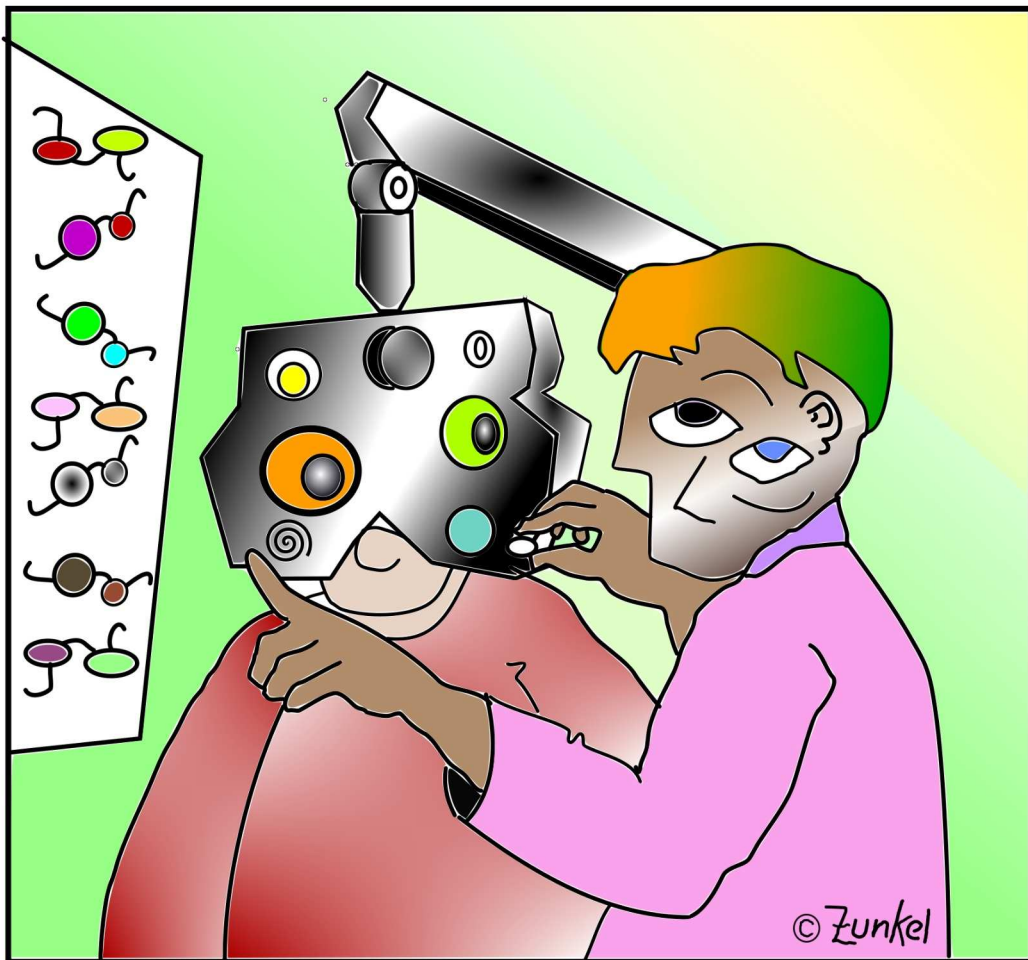


*Jill prepares to uncap dried out paint tubes!*

# Plain Air



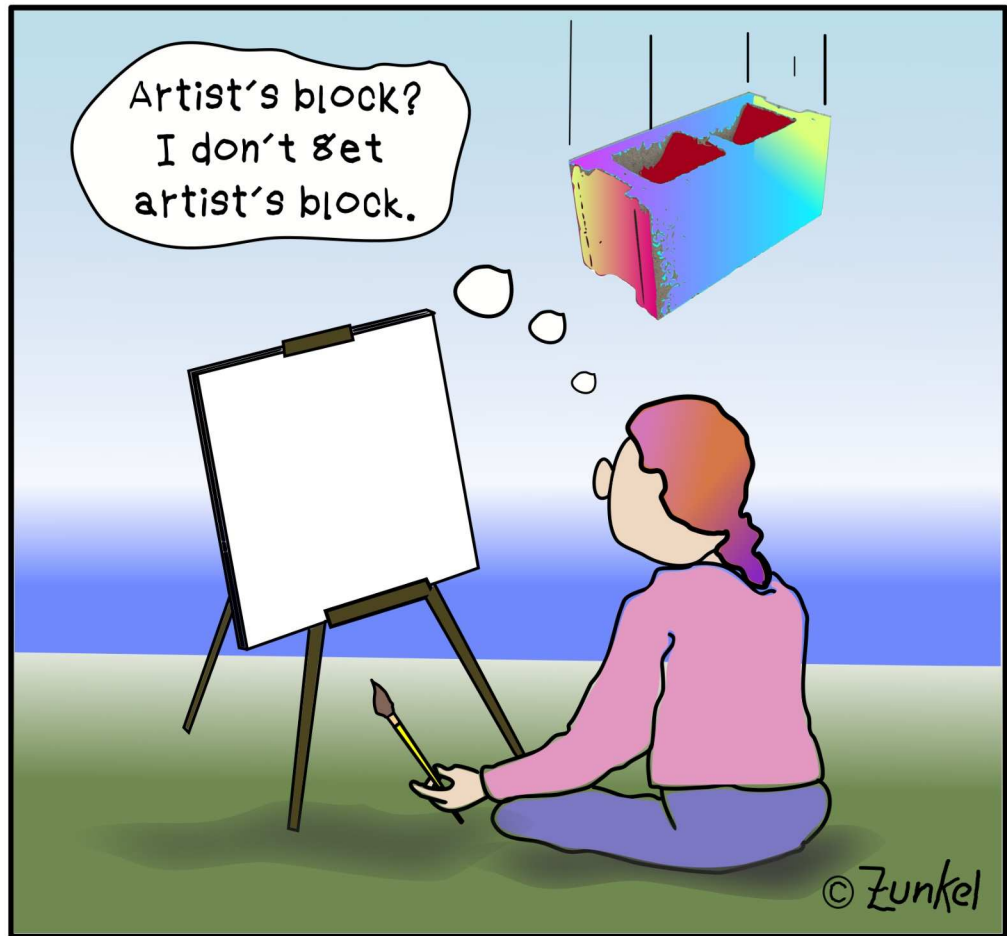
# Plain Air



*Eye Exam at the Picasso Optometric Clinic*



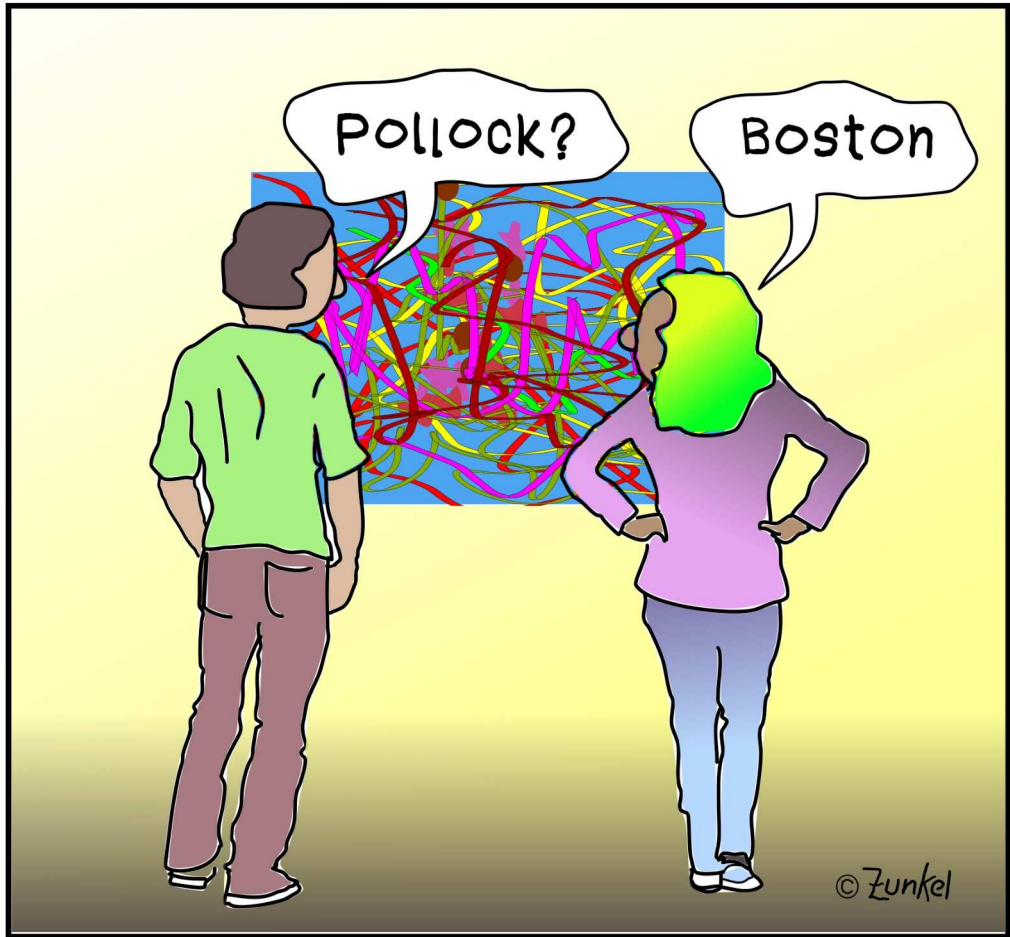
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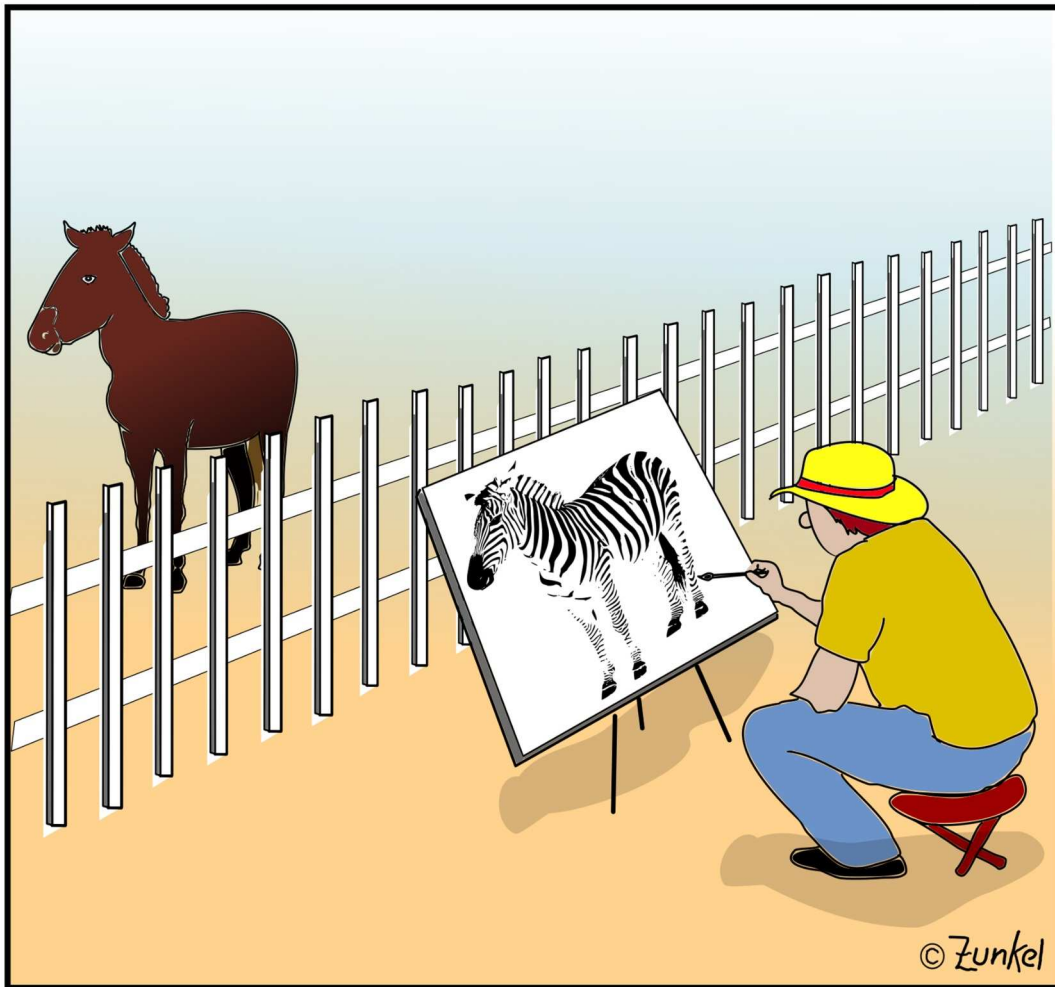
# Plain Air



# Plain Air

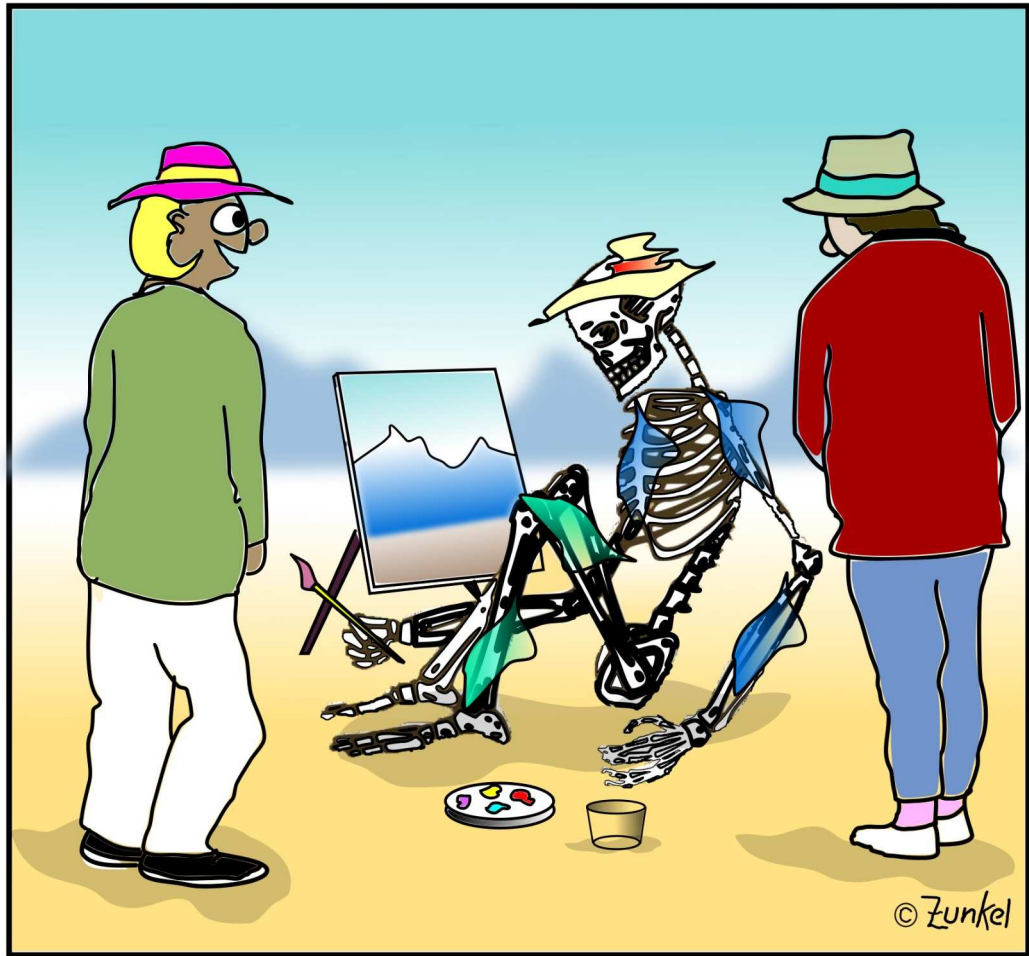


# Plain Air



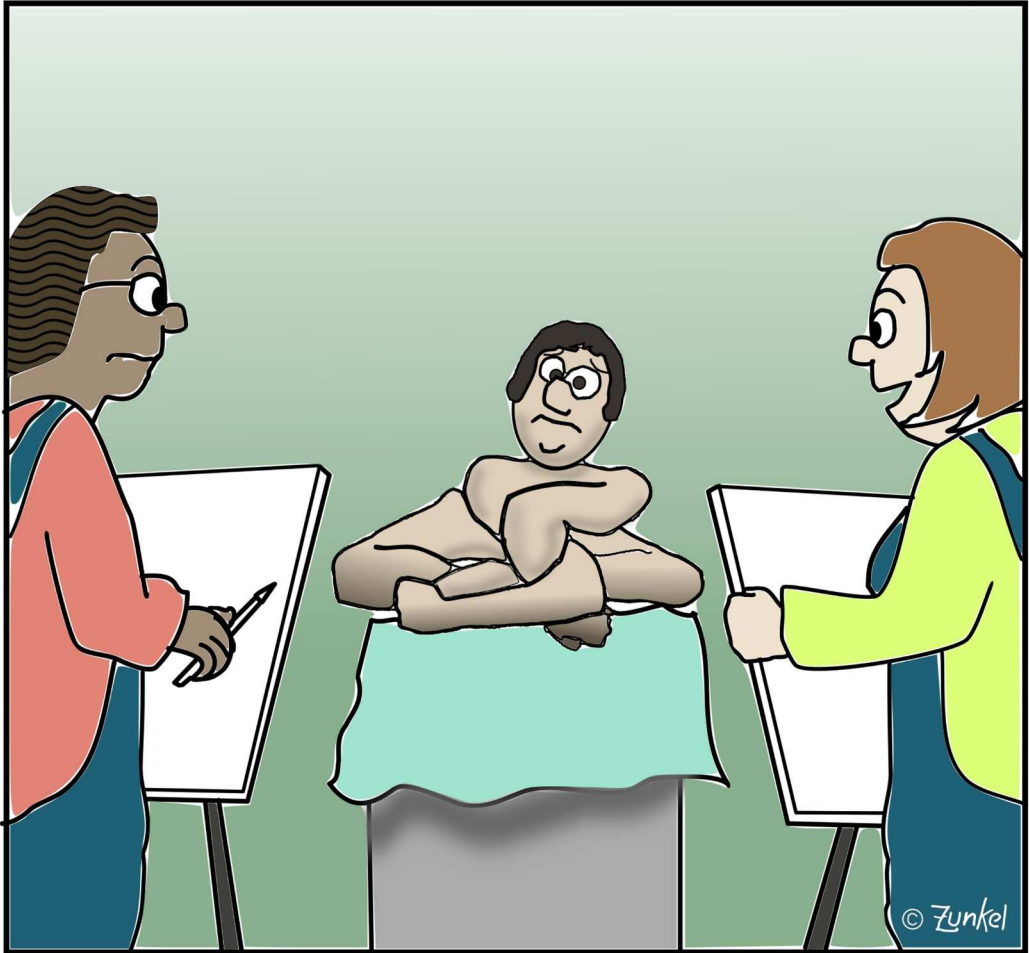
© Zunkel

# Plain Air



*"It takes Fred forever to finish a painting!"*

# Plain Air



*"Hold that pose for an hour, OK?"*

# Plain Air



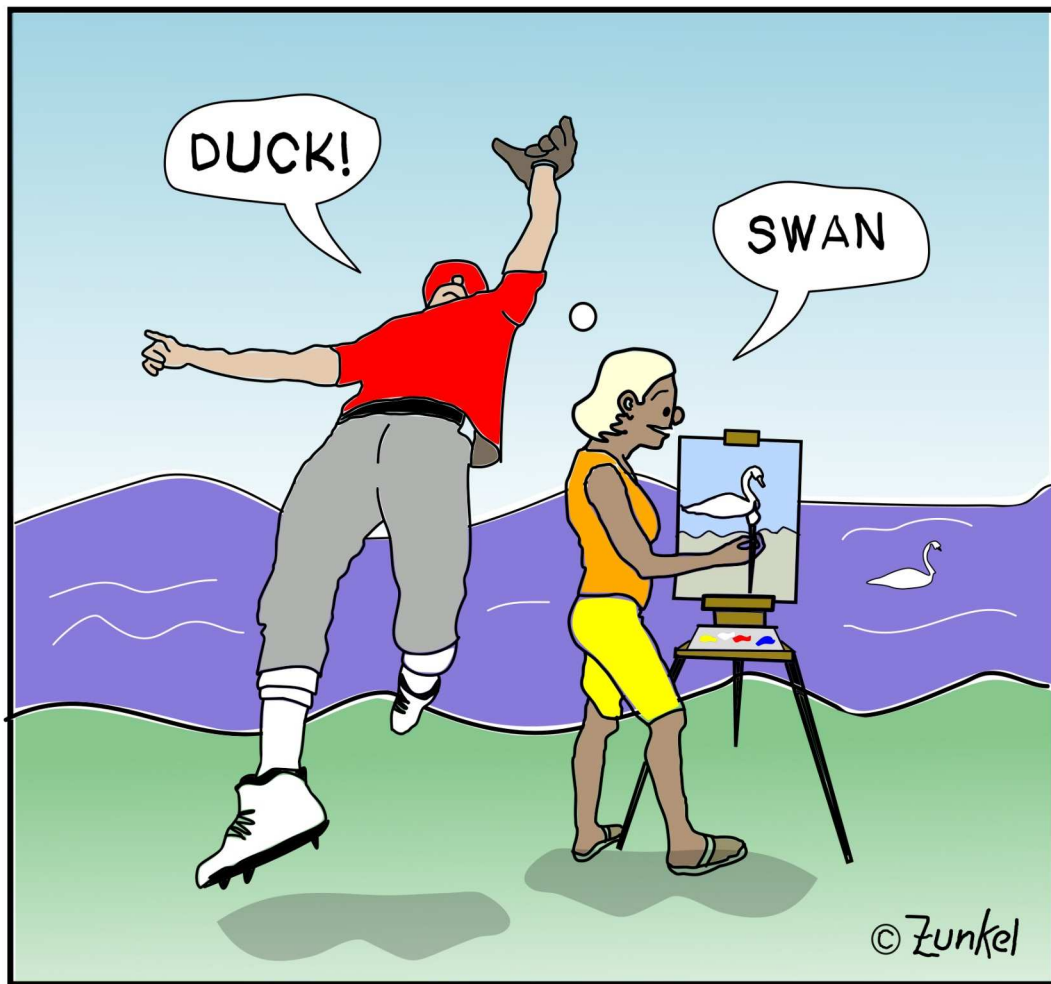
*"I said, 'lightest lights over darkest darks'!"*

# Plain Air





# Plain Air



# Plain Air



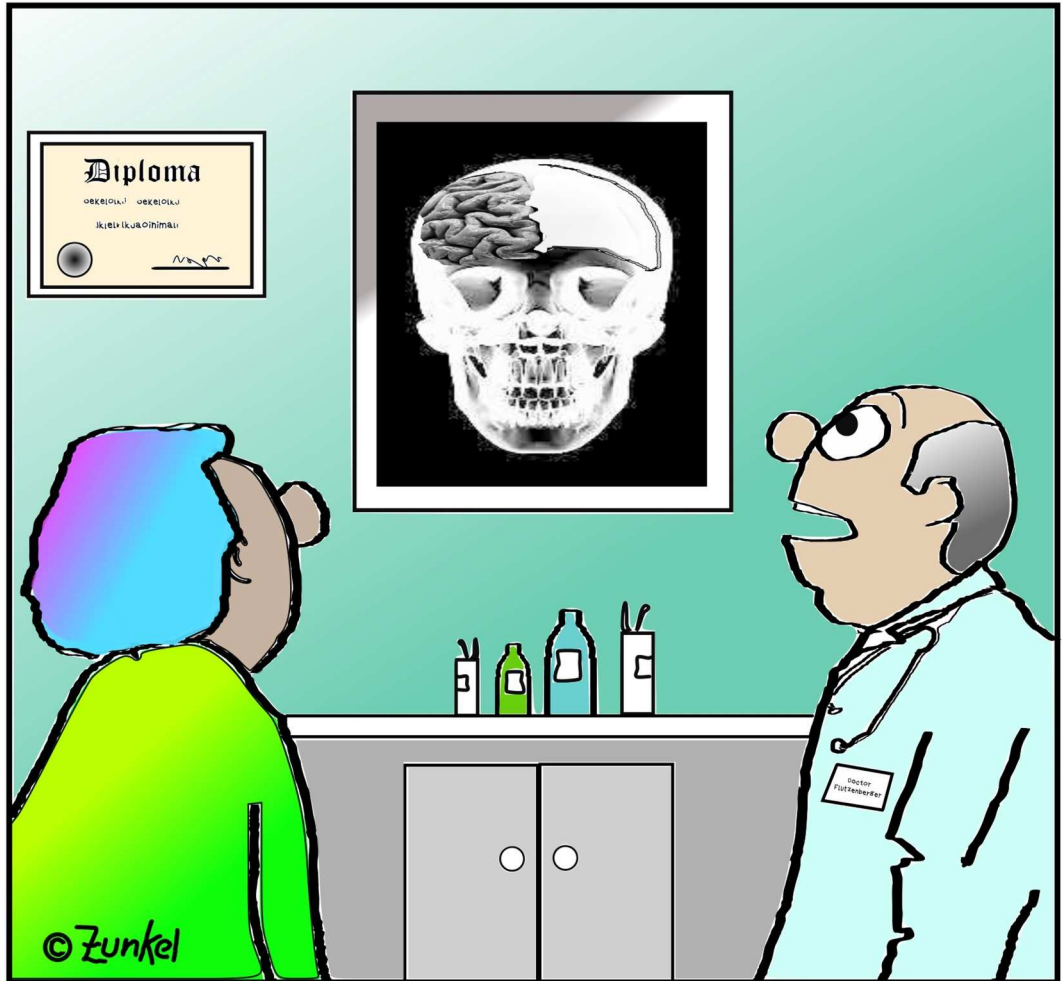
*"Worst case of anomatopoeia I've ever seen!"*

# Plain Air



*"Ah, there's nothing like painting in the heartland!"*

# Plain Air



*"Your scan suggests that you are an artist!"*

# Plain Air



# Plain Air



© Zunkel

# Plain Air



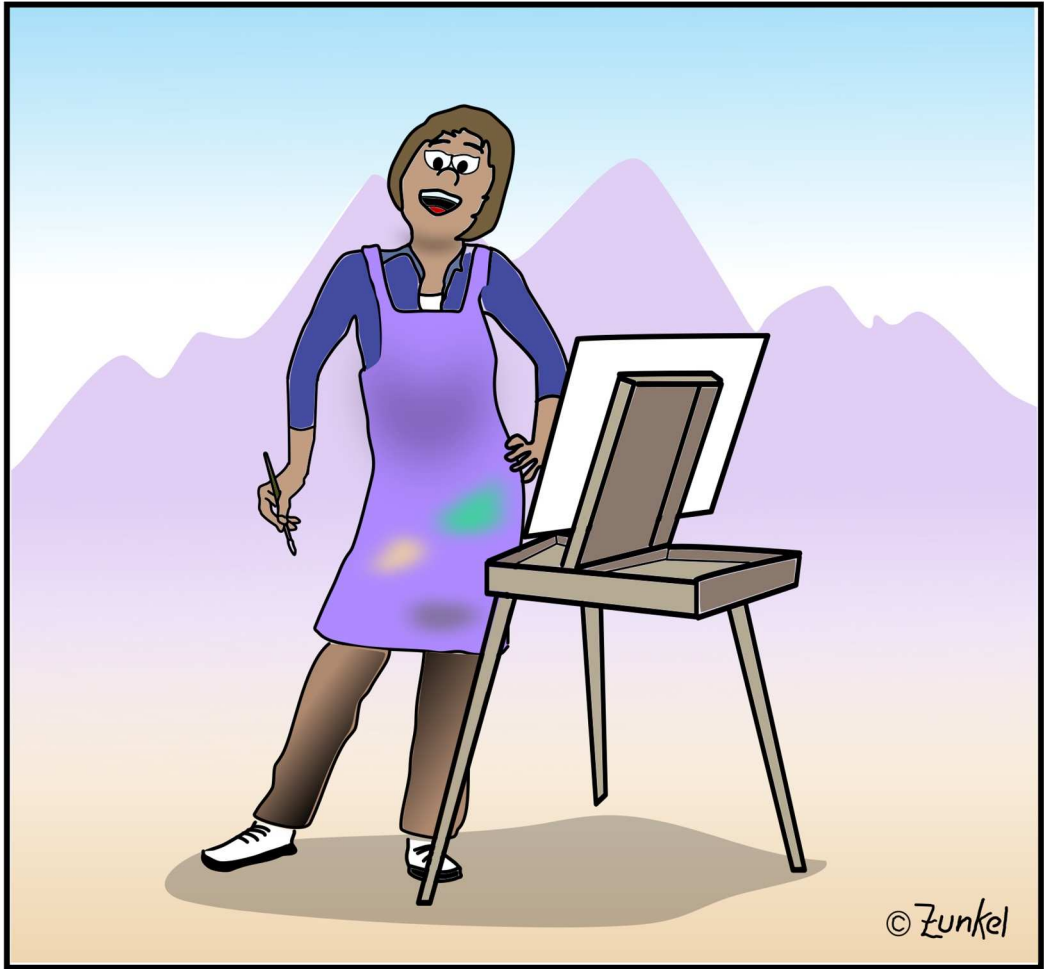
*"Here's what you do with your failed paintings!"*

# Plain Air





# Plain Air



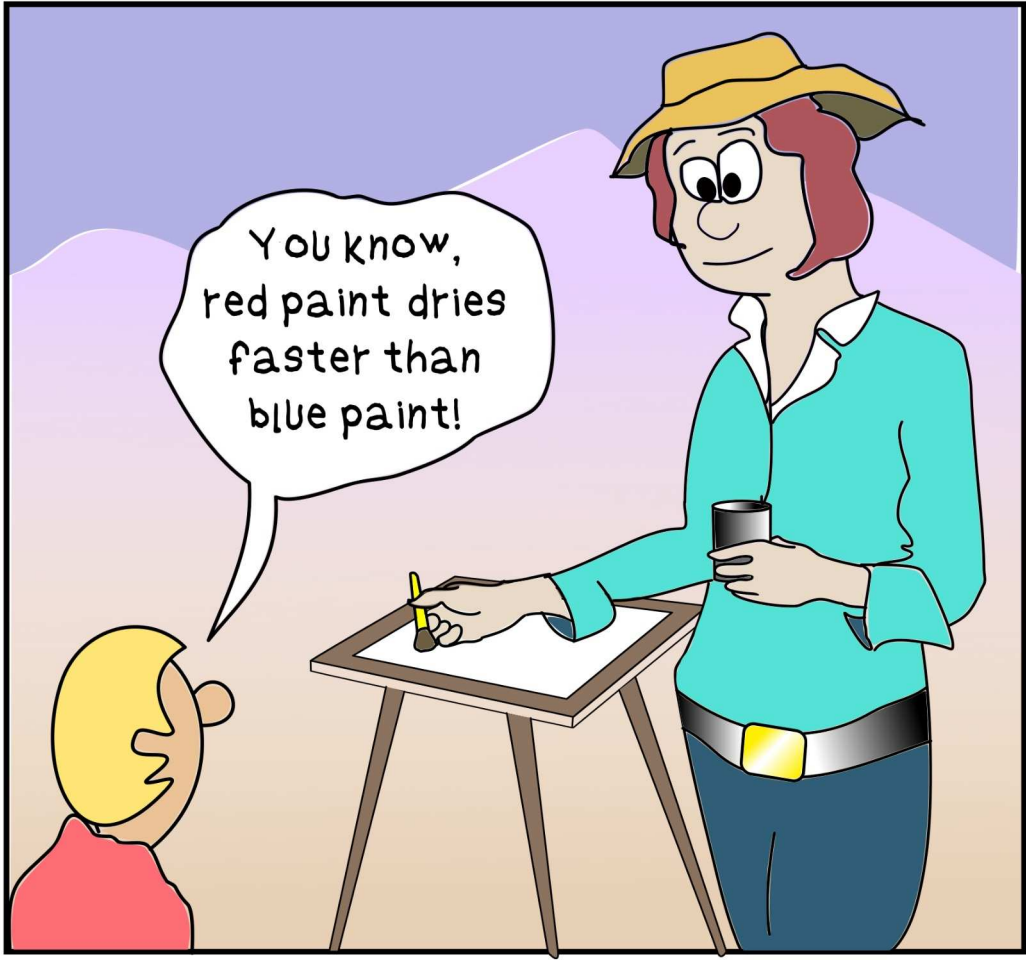
© Zunkel

*"Someday this will all make sense!"*

# Plain Air

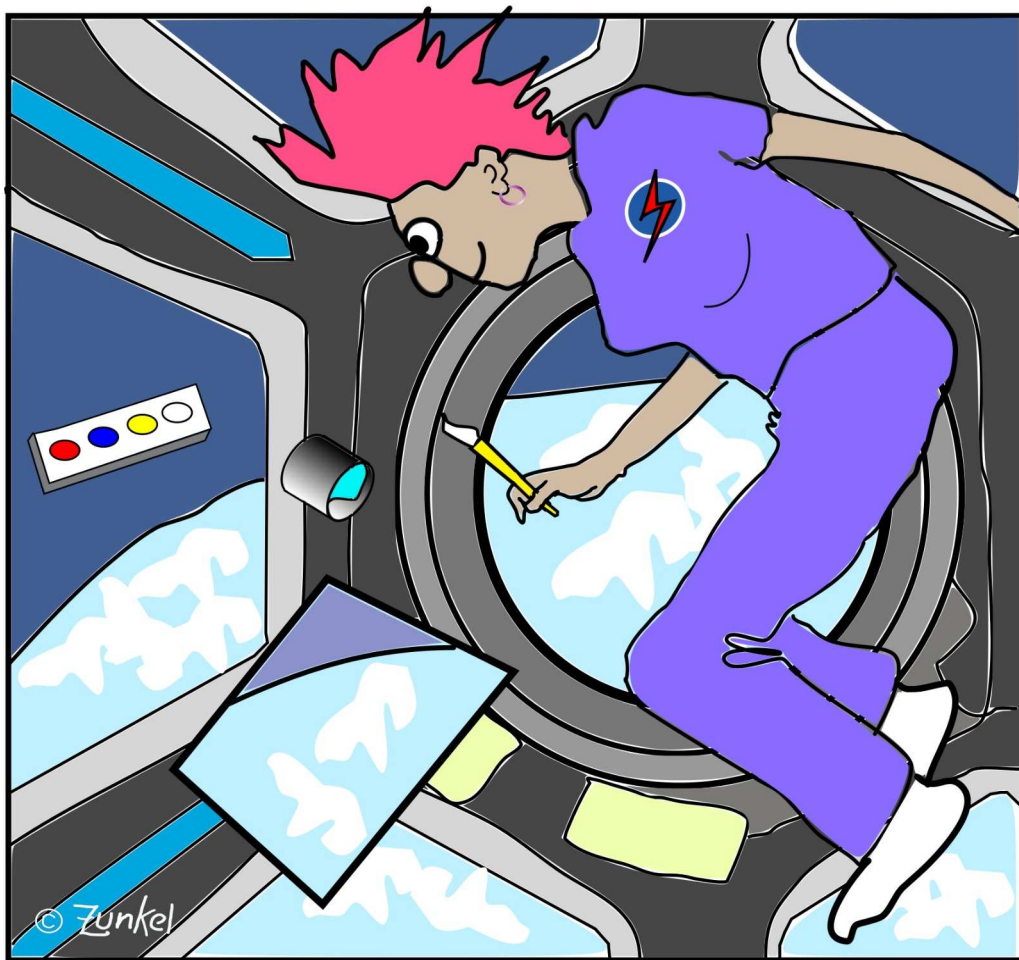


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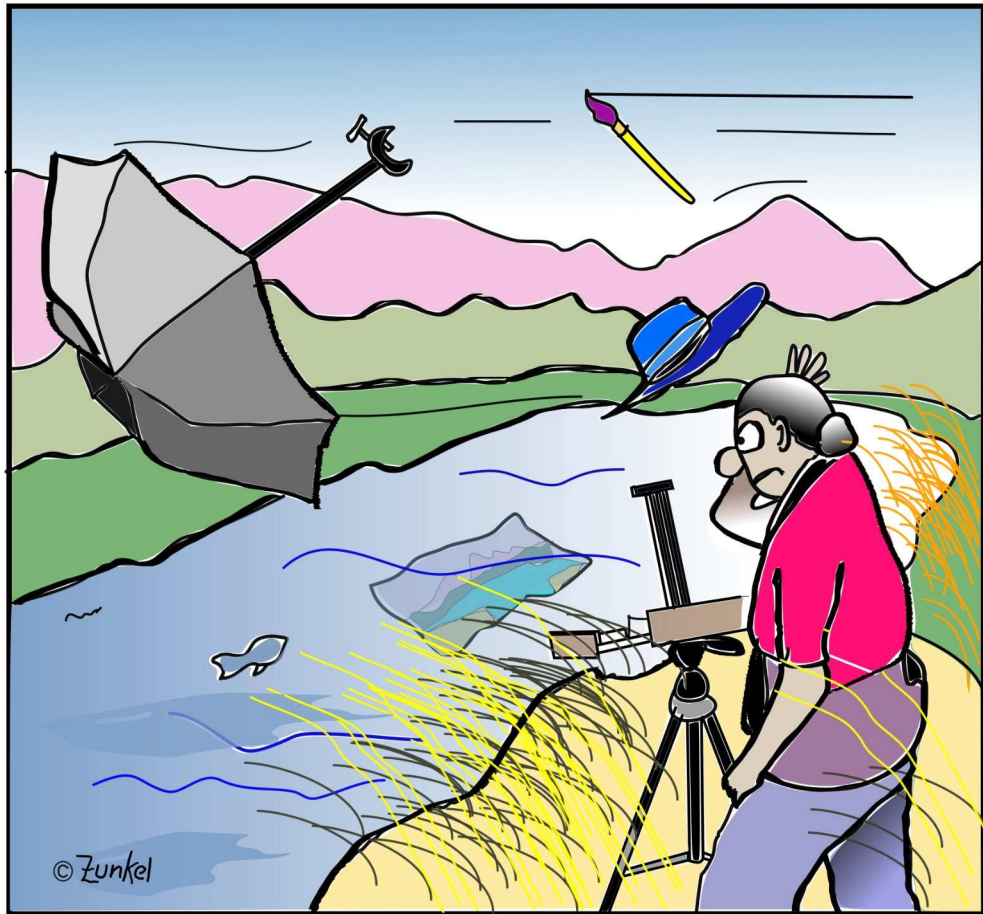
*From the mouths of children comes wisdom.*

# Plain Air



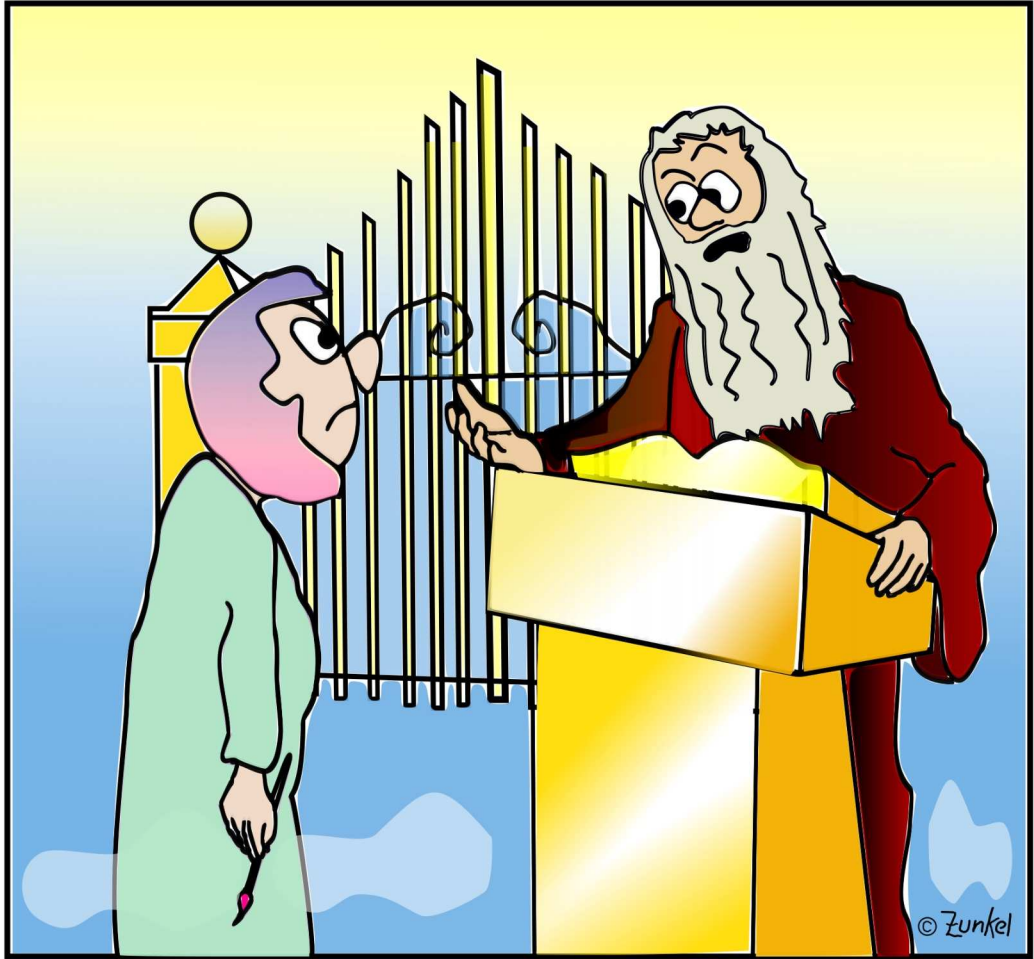
*The ultimate painting en plein air...*

# Plain Air



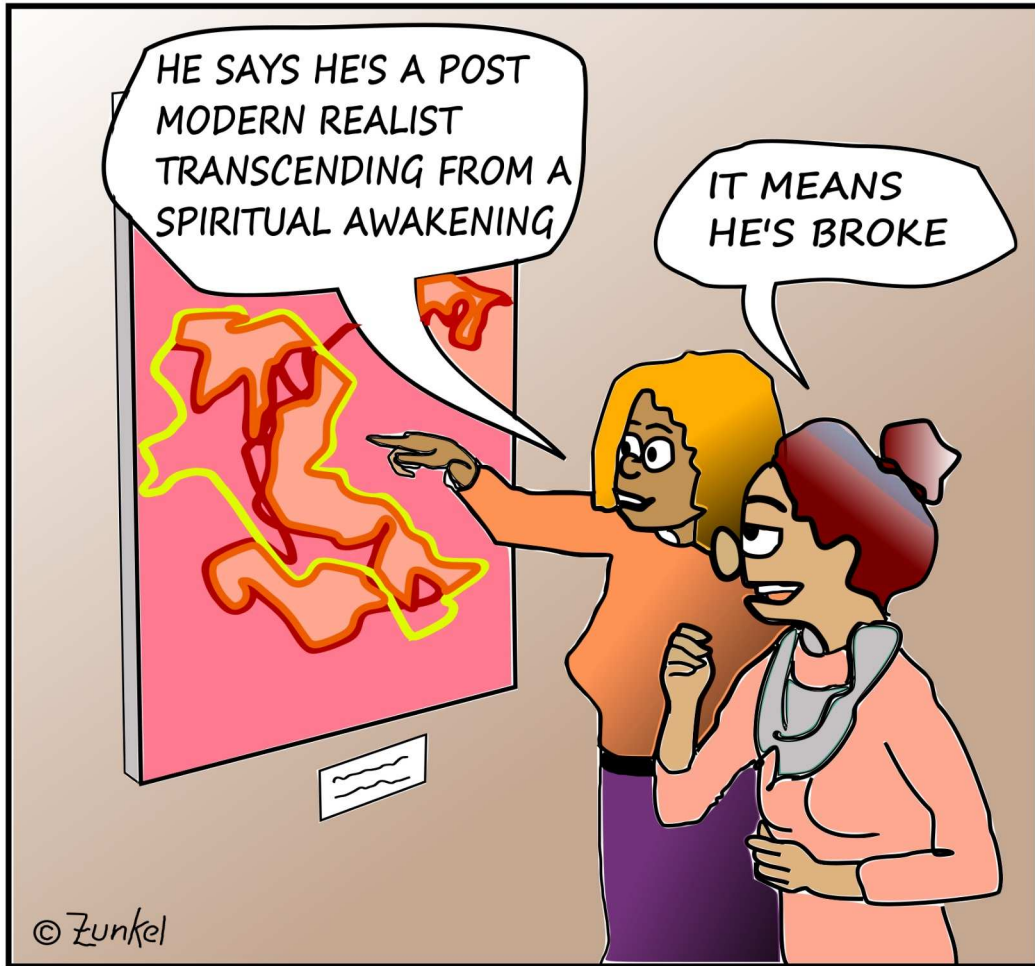
*Advice to artists...  
Stay home on windy days!*

# Plain Air



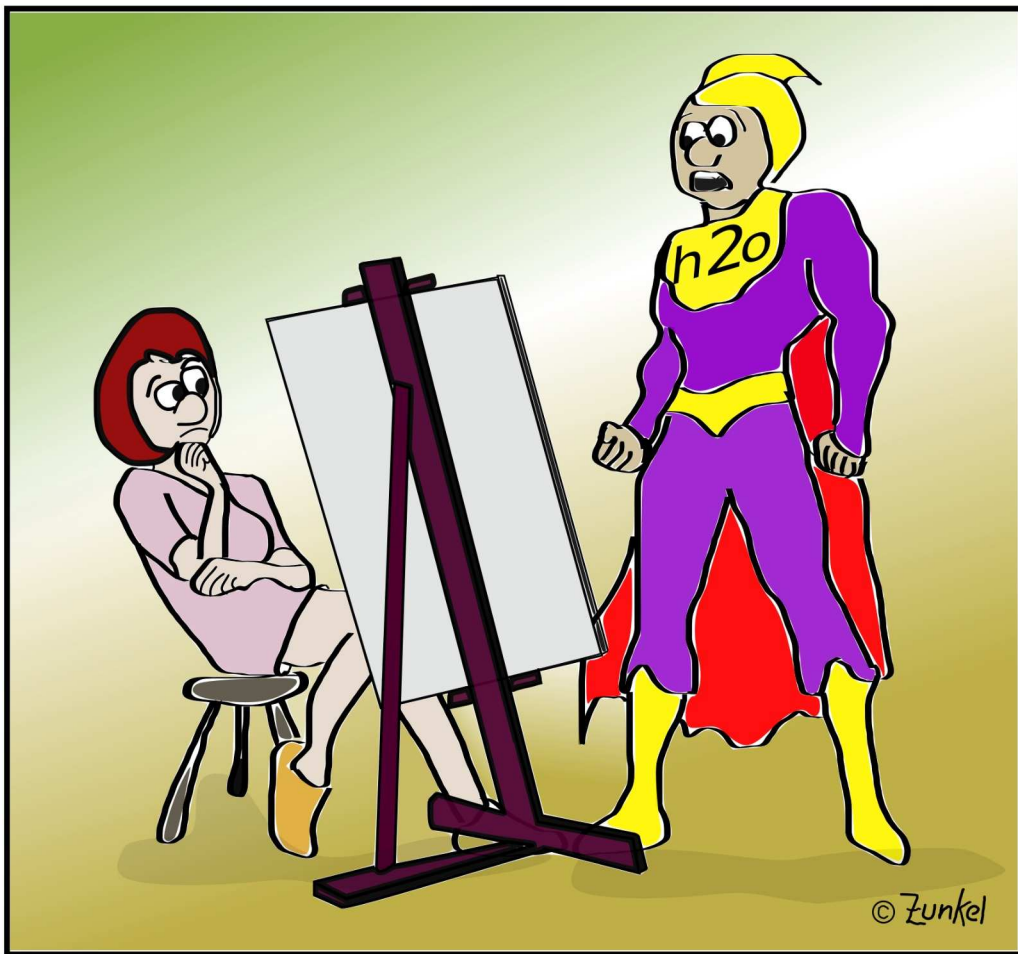
*"Did you not read the hazard warnings on the paint tubes?"*

# Plain Air



***An Artist's statement explained...***

# Plain Air



*"Even with my super powers I cannot save this painting!"*



# Plain Air

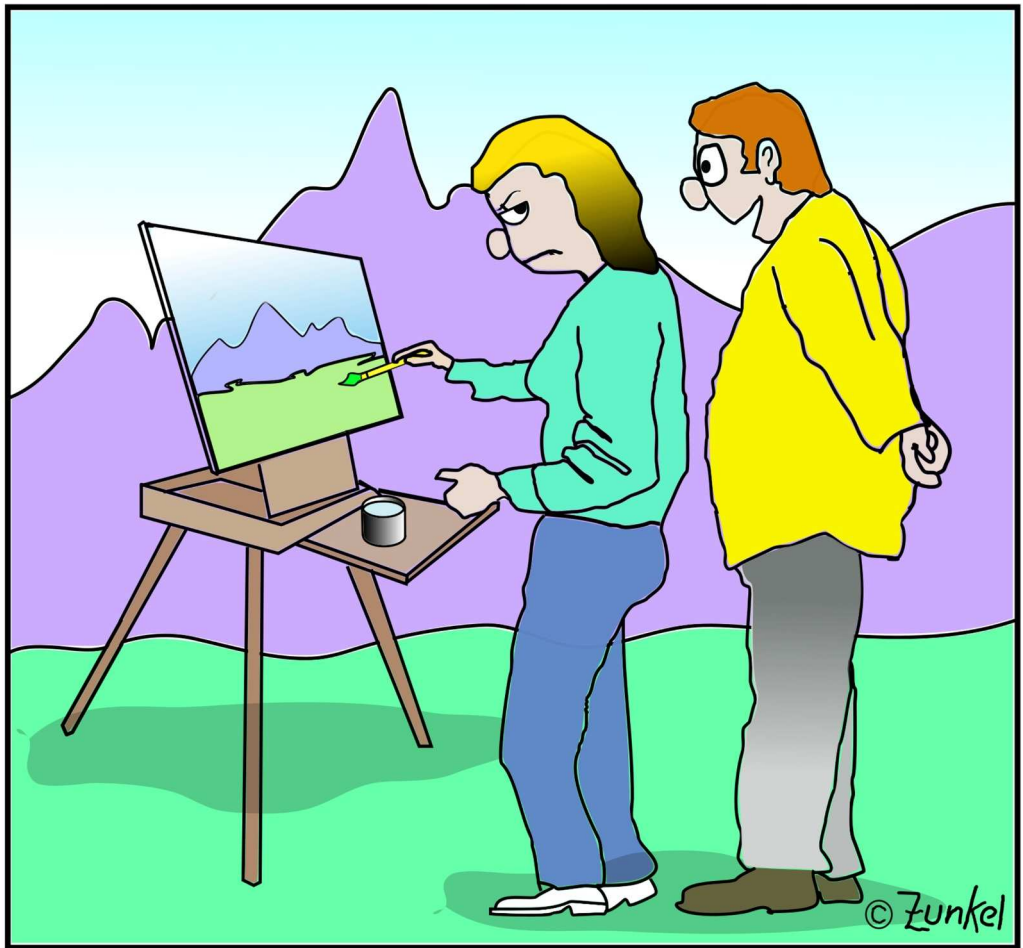


*"Our workshop leader told us to sleep on it!"*

# Plain Air

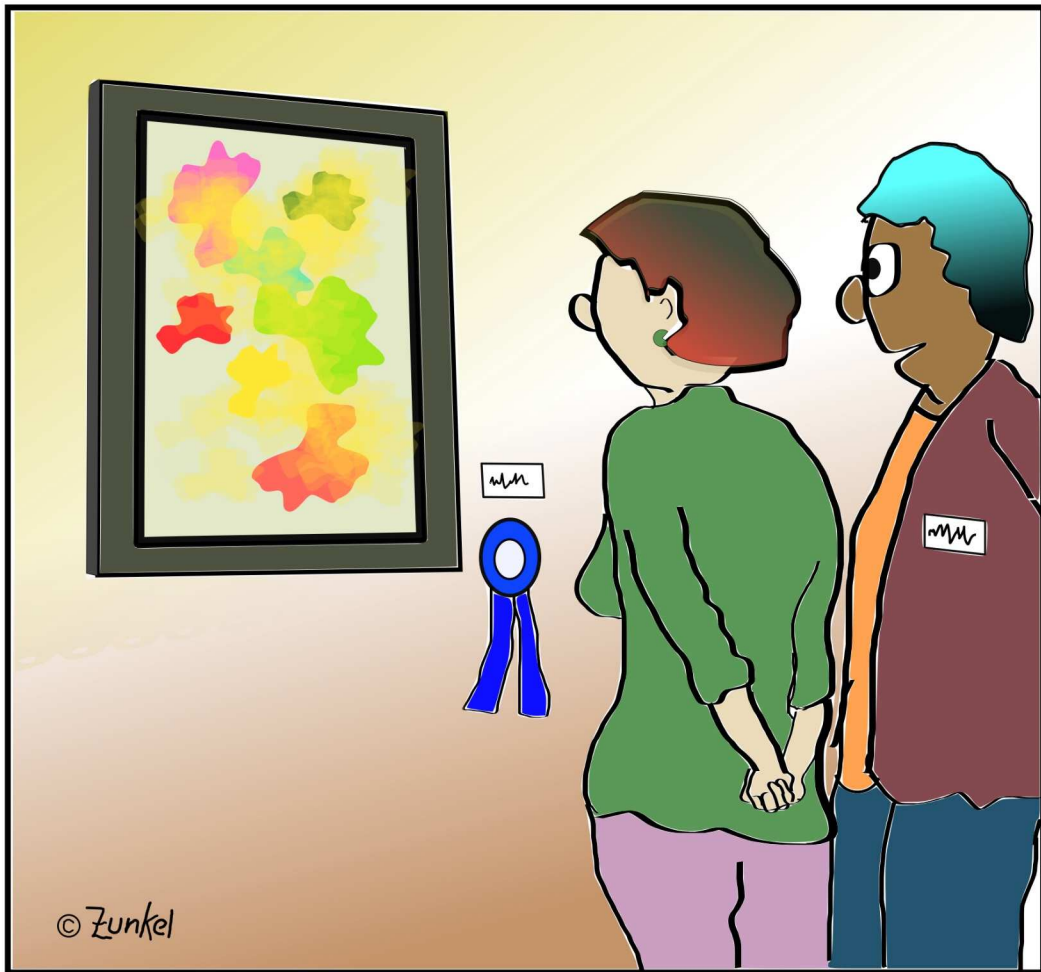


# Plain Air



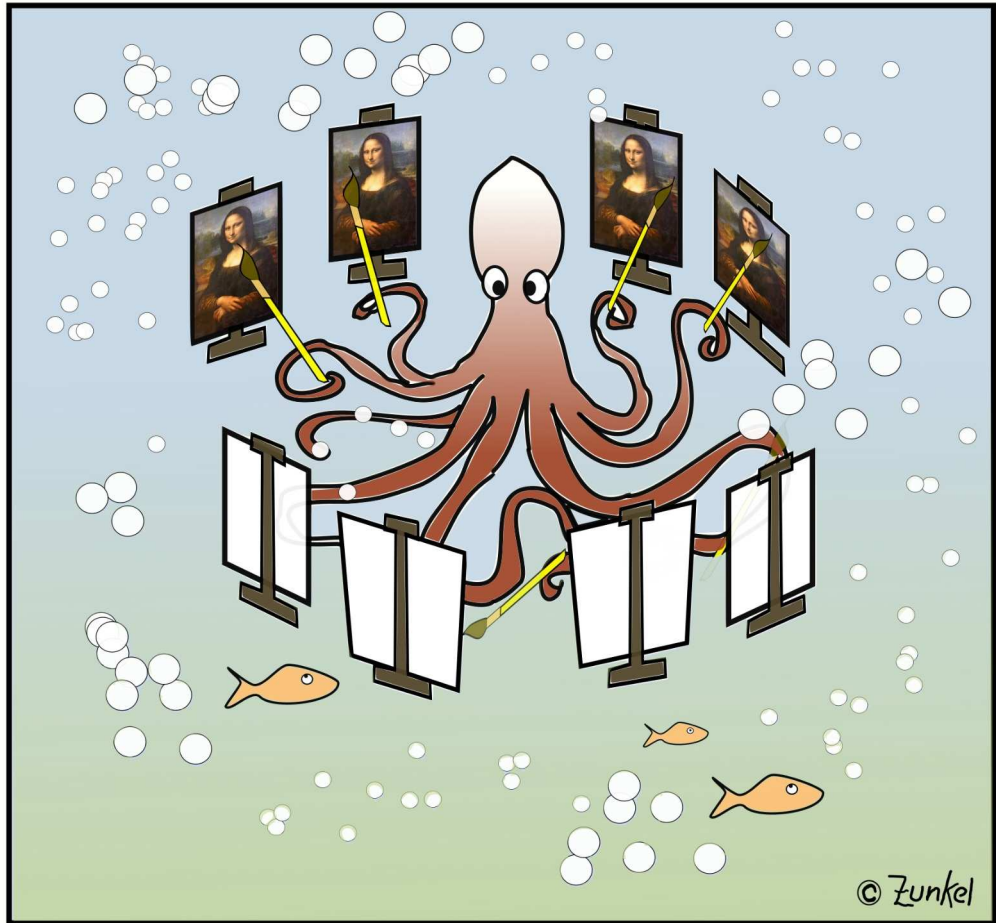
*"That's nice. What is it?"*

# Plain Air



***"It was just my paint rag!"***

# Plain Air



© Zunkel

*The Octoforger*

# Plain Air



*Doris wondered why the mime wouldn't reply.*

# Plain Air

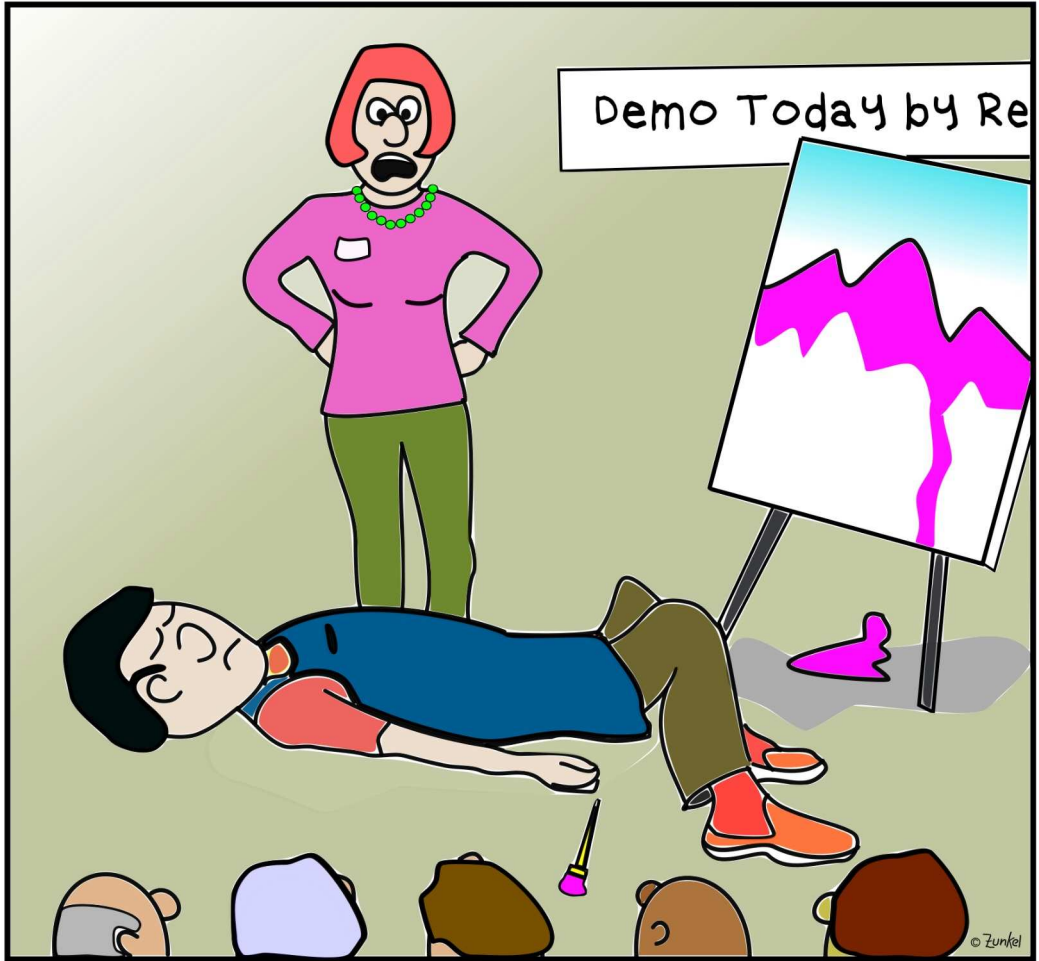
You can always  
tell a German.

But you can't  
tell him much.



© Zunkel

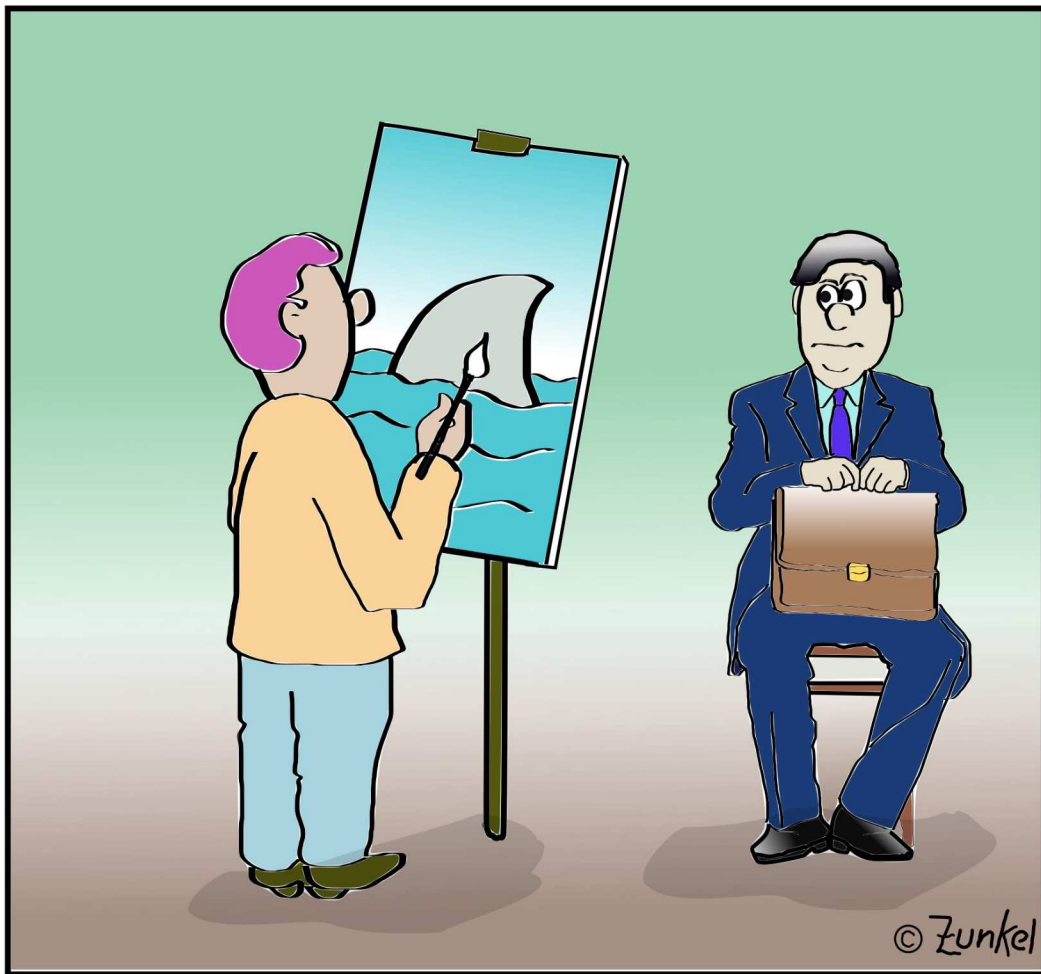
# Plain Air



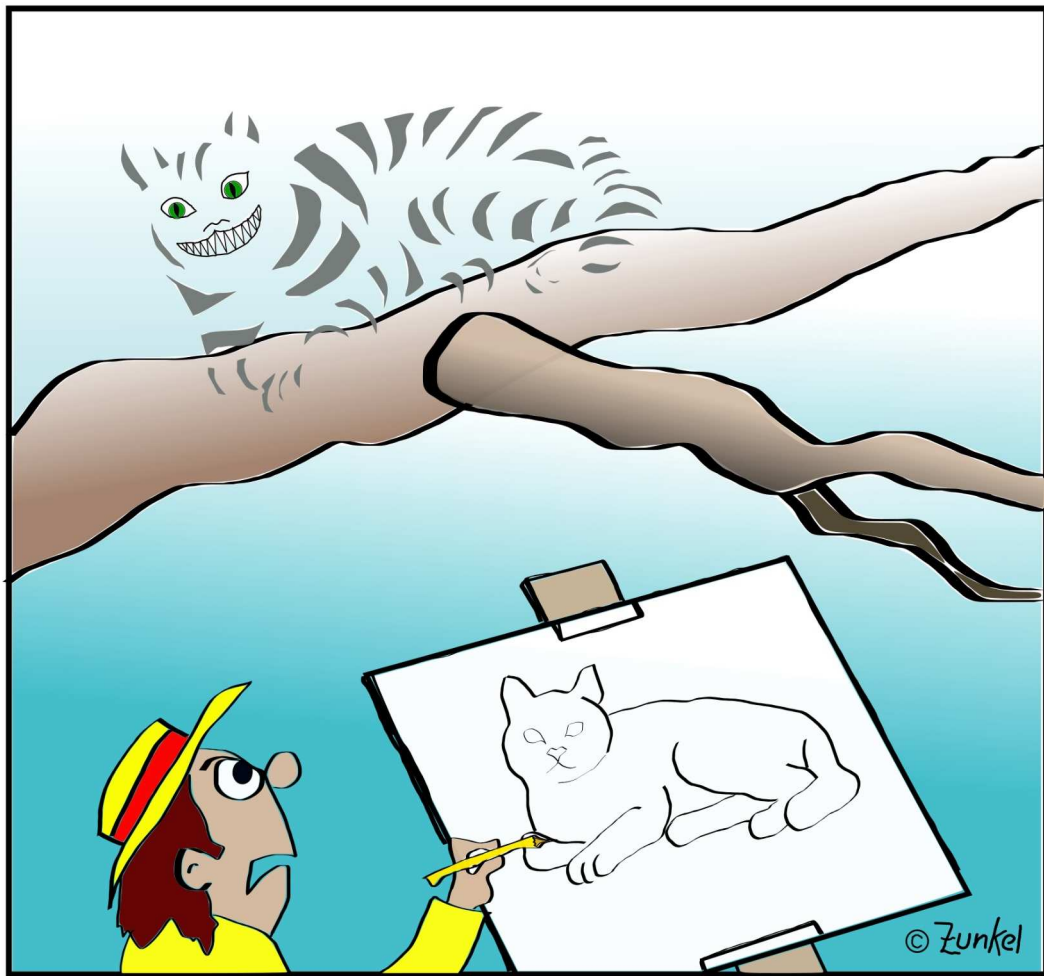
*"Is there an artist in the house?"*



# Plain Air



# Plain Air



*"Will you please stop it?"*

# Plain Air



*"Next time we go somewhere else!"*

# Plain Air



*"Hey, can you spare some anthraquinone blue?"*

# Plain Air



*Your fate as an artist may depend on something as unpredictable a happy accident.*

It has been a enjoyable ride drawing "Plain Air" since 2015. I have some people to thank, Uma Kelkar, Jen Norton, Leslie Grimm, Tanvi Buch, and the painters and leaders of our plein air paintouts who were the inspiration for many of my cartoons, and the membership of the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society. I also want to thank the contributors to Inkscape for their fine software and upgrades and my wife Salinda, who endured my sitting in front of a computer for hours creating "Plain Air." OK, I'm getting old and forgetful, so if I didn't acknowledge an important contributor, I apologize.

Dick Zunkel



*Behold, the Art Fairy, who comes in the night  
and repairs bad paintings.*



Thank you from the gang at Plain Air



"Plain Air" had its roots at a Stanford University cafeteria on a rainy day following a plein air painting session when artist Uma Kelkar demonstrated a brush pen. In late 2015, Dick Zunkel began drawing cartoons in a Los Gatos, California art workshop. At the outbreak of COVID he moved to his home studio. "Breathing Out" series contains cartoons from mid-2020 to mid-2022. Most of the cartoons in this book appeared in the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society website and newsletter. A few are previously unpublished.