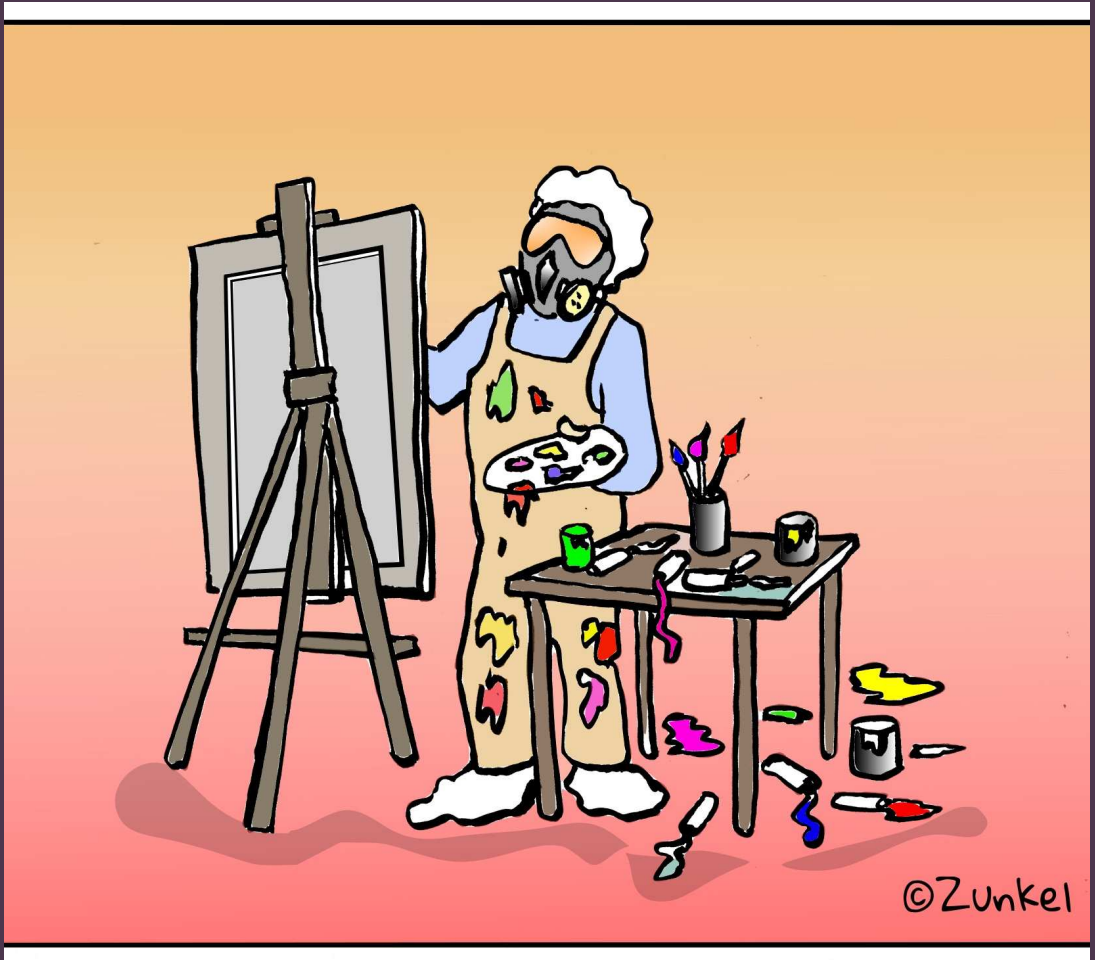


Breathing Plain Air



©Zunkel

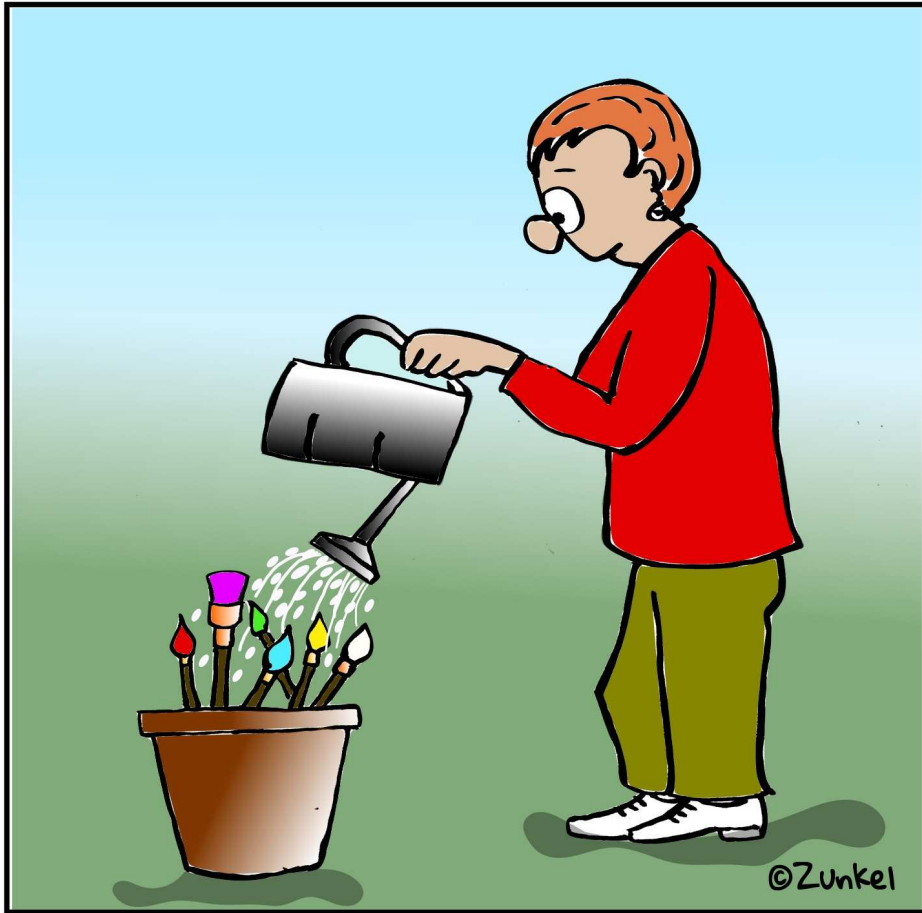
An irreverent view art and artists by Dick Zunkel

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Contact: info@dickzunkel.com

Plain Air



To those who nurture art.

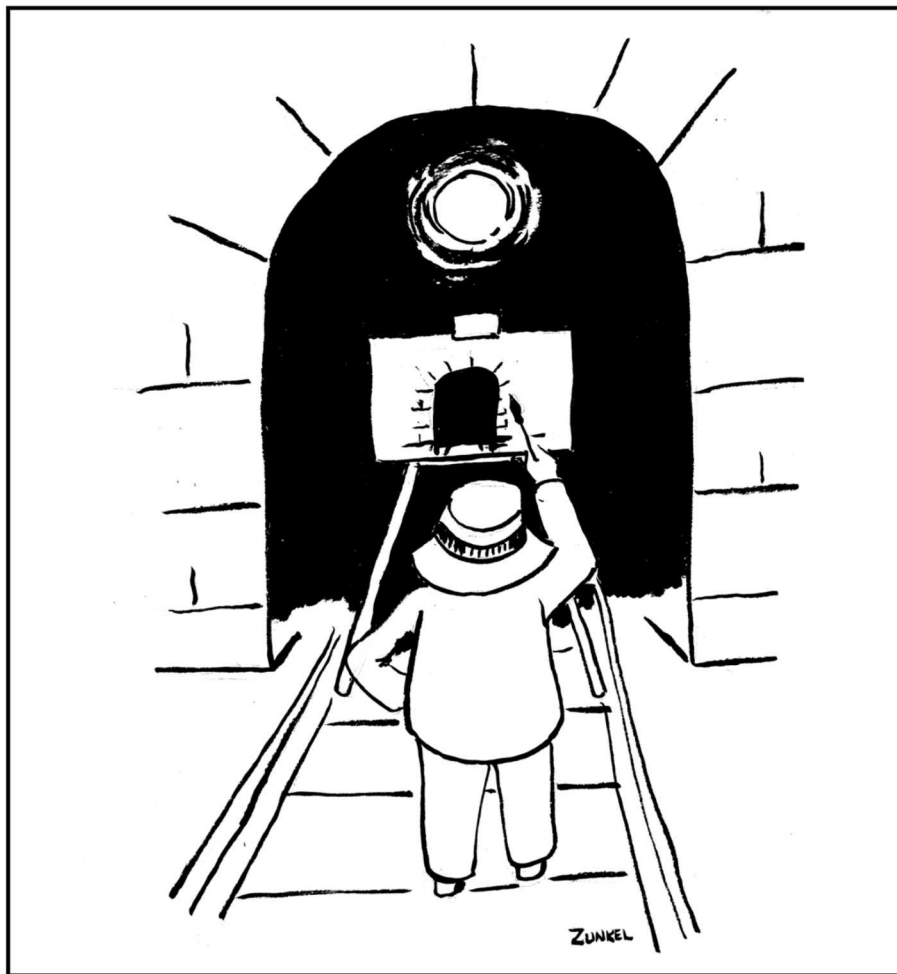
Forward

In my first book, *Plain Air*, I went into detail about the creative process and the mechanics of drawing cartoons. In *Breathing Plain Air*, I left out the the technical details, enlarged earlier cartoons, and added many new ones. I continue to draw cartoons regularly, though I have abandoned my self-imposed weekly schedule and draw them as ideas come to me. My original intent was to work on a schedule as if I was in syndication. “Ha!”

The COVID-19 pandemic changed in my drawing process. Previously, I drew cartoons in an artists’ workshop on card stock with a brush-pen, scanned, and finished them with *Inkscape* scaleable vector graphics software. Due to the pandemic the sponsors closed the workshop, so now I do all my work in my home studio. I still use *Inkscape* in the process, but use both ink and digital technology. Though my theme remains “art and artists” I have slipped in a few cartoons that are a “stretch.” So, please breathe deeply and enjoy *Breathing Plain Air*.

First *Plain Air* cartoon, November, 2015

Plain Air by Dick Zunkel

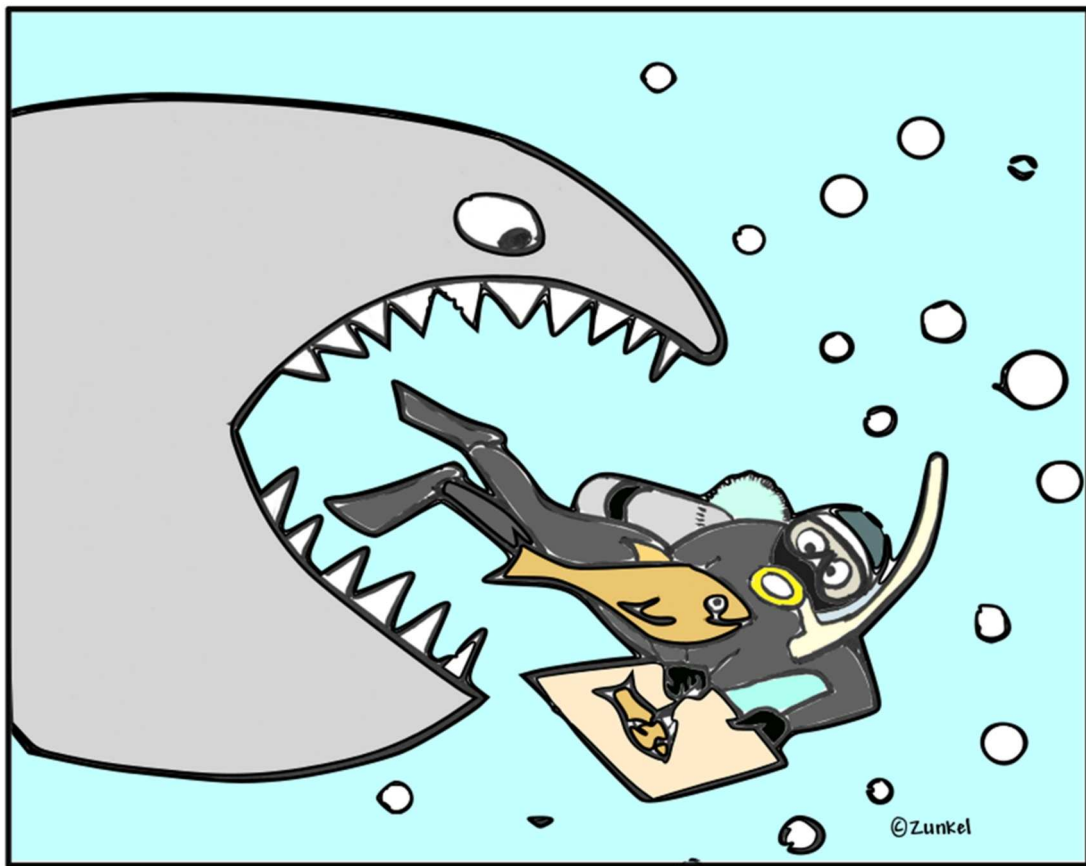


Then I discovered color...



©Zunkel

Plain Air

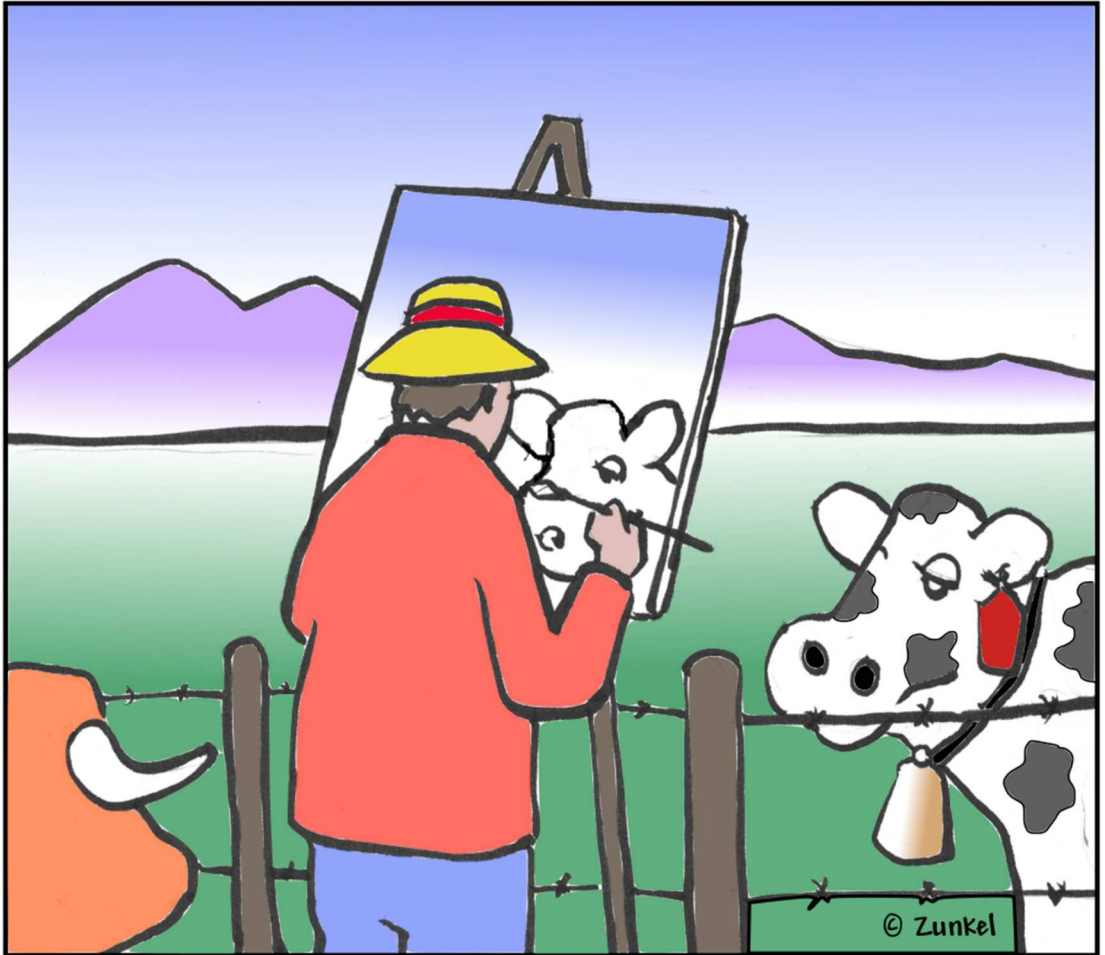


Plain Air



"Hey, you're blocking my view!"

Plain Air



Plain Air



Plain Air



L'Artiste

Plain Air



The joy of painting while you travel

Plain Air

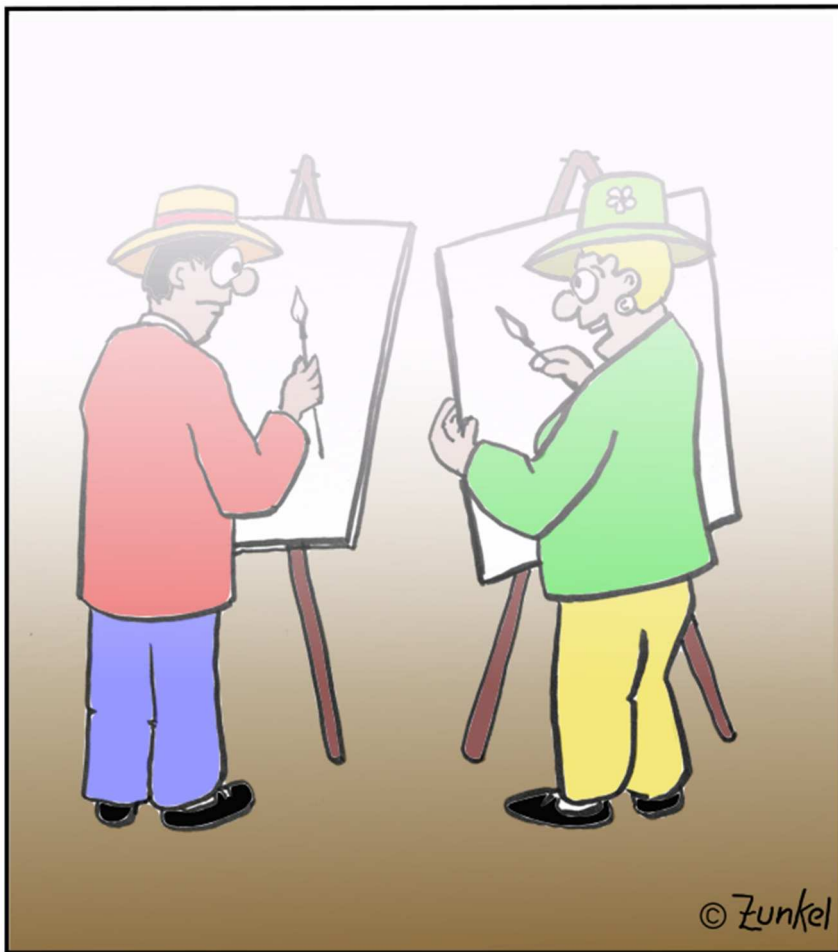


Plain Air



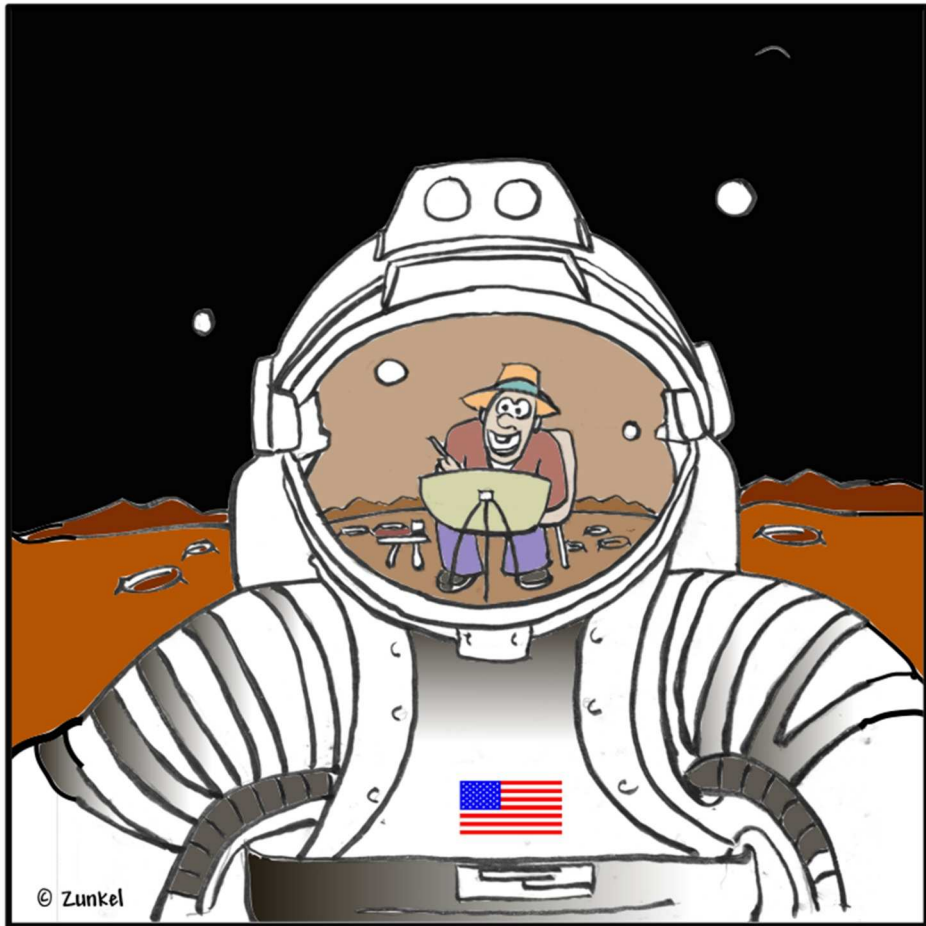
"Why are you stopping me? I'm not texting!"

Plain Air



"Are you sure we're painting the coast?"

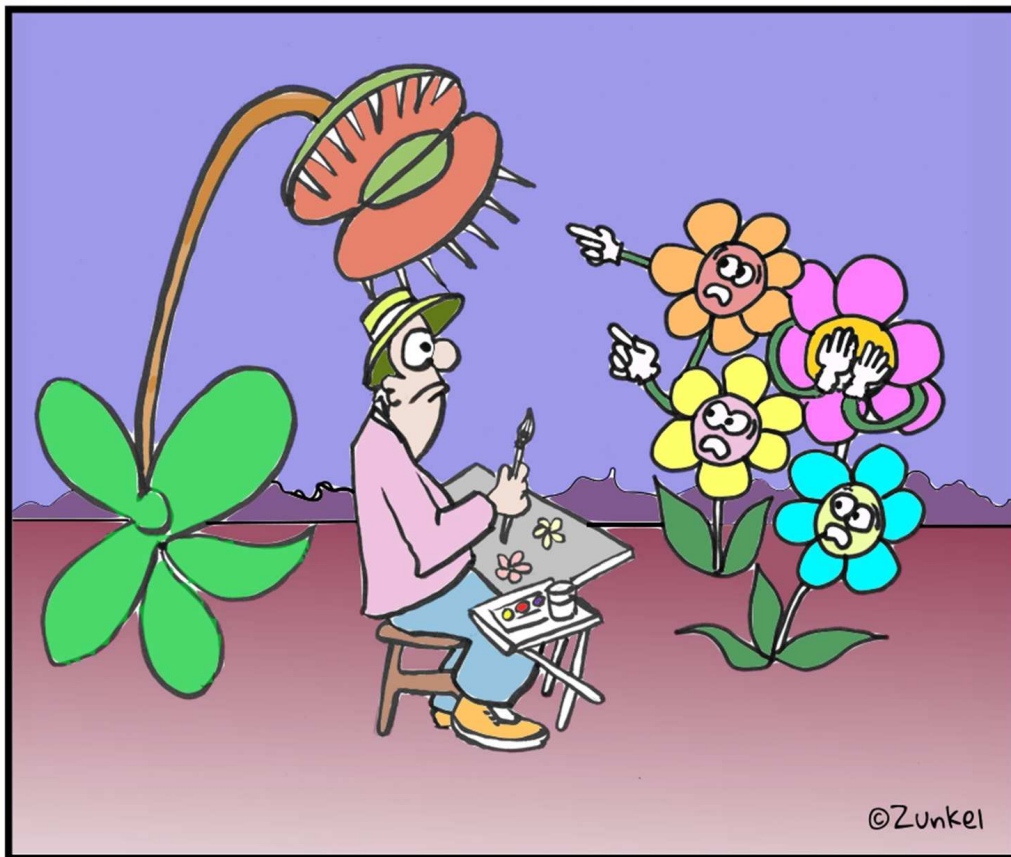
Plain Air



© Zunkel

"Hi! What are you doing here?"

Plain Air



Plain Air



"Oh....."

Plain Air



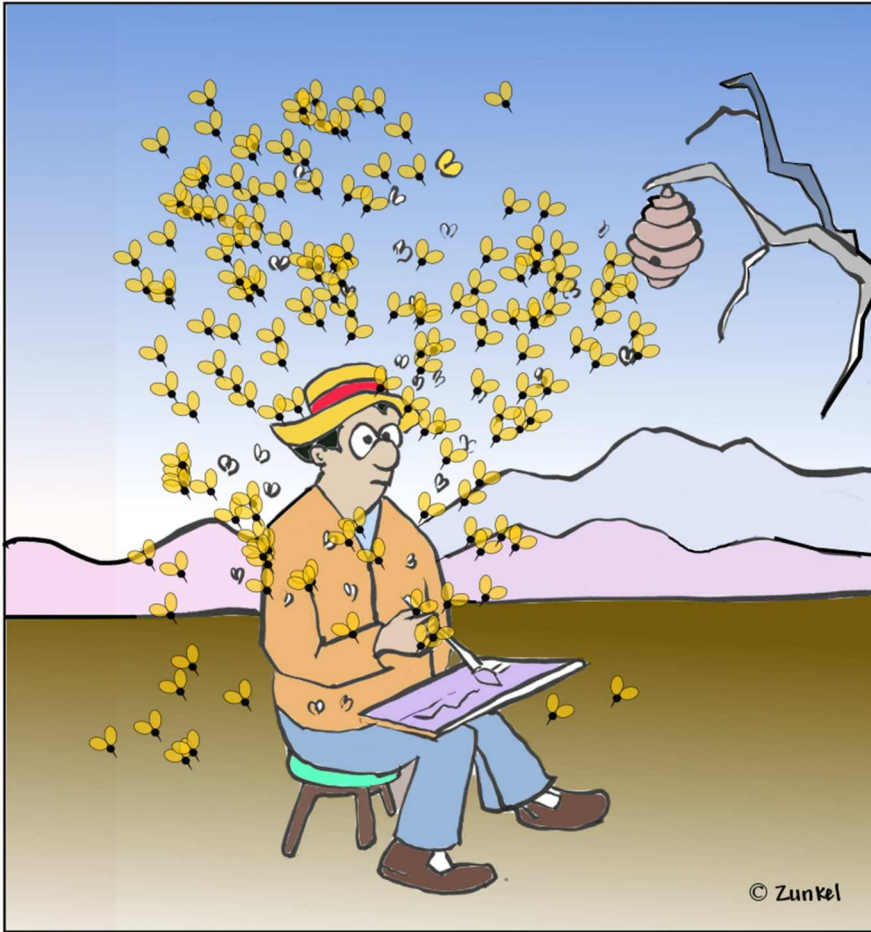
"Remember, darkest darks by your lightest lights!"

Plain Air



Ye Arte Faire

Plain Air



© Zunkel

*Advice to artists:
"Check your surroundings before you paint."*

Plain Air



© Zunkel

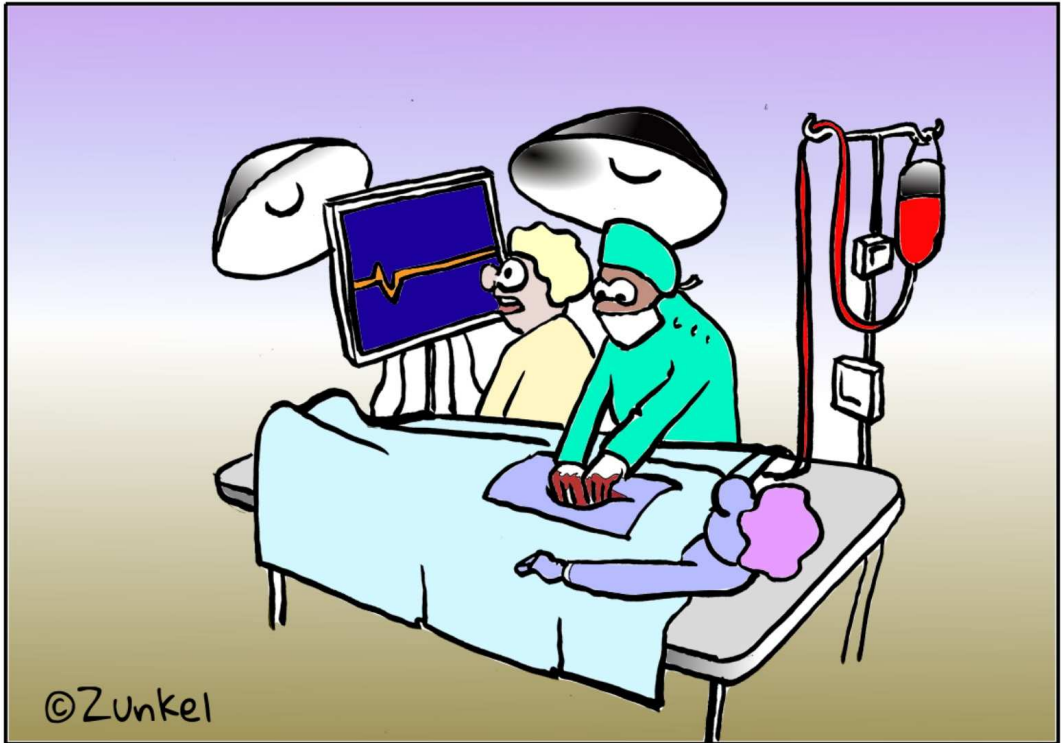
Plain Air



Plain Air

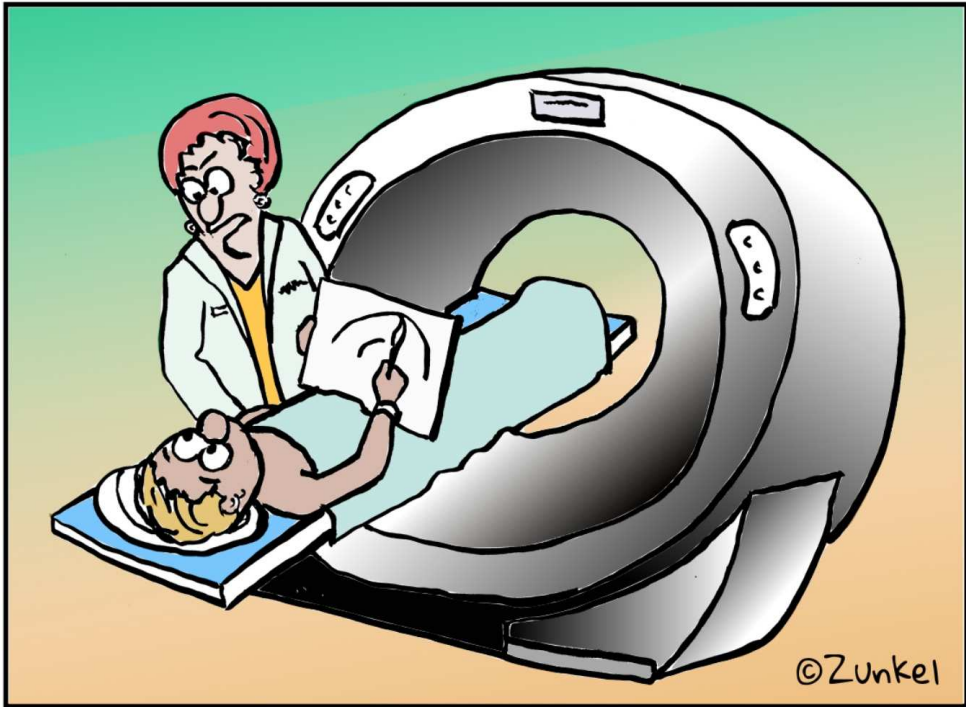


Plain Air



"Doctor Grumbacher, he's code ultramarine blue!"

Plain Air



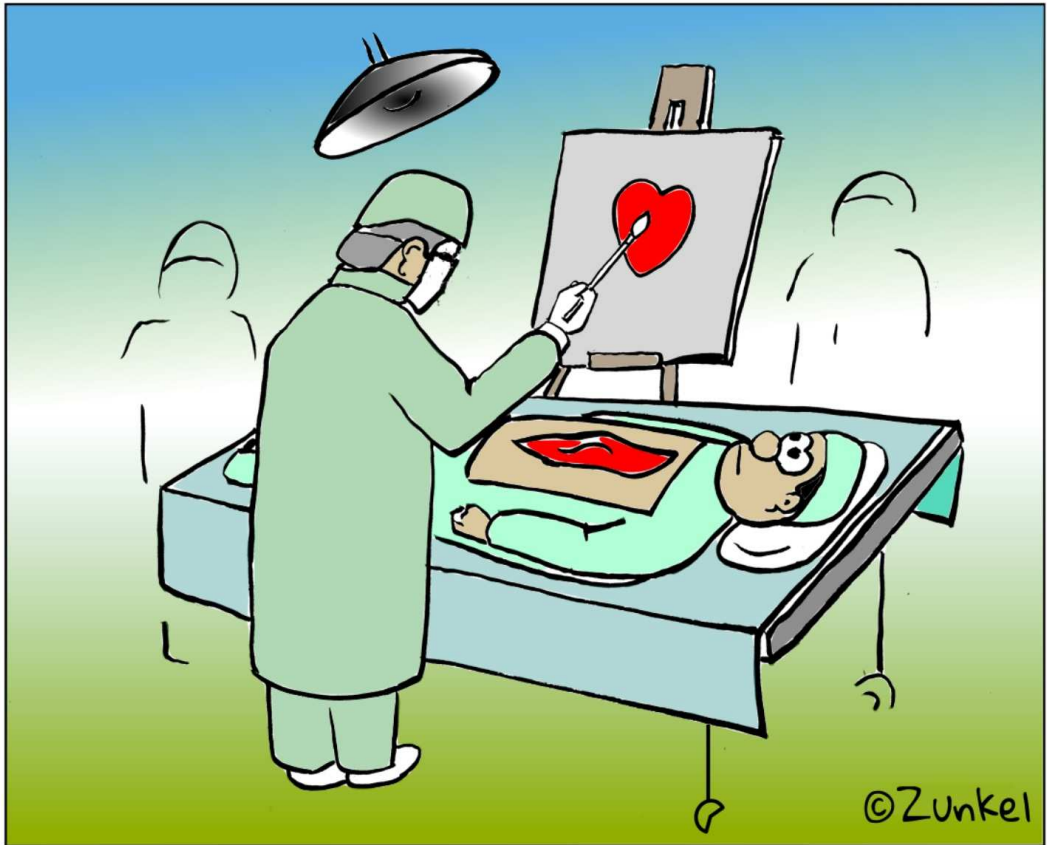
"Listen, Michaelangelo, the answer is still NO!"

Plain Air



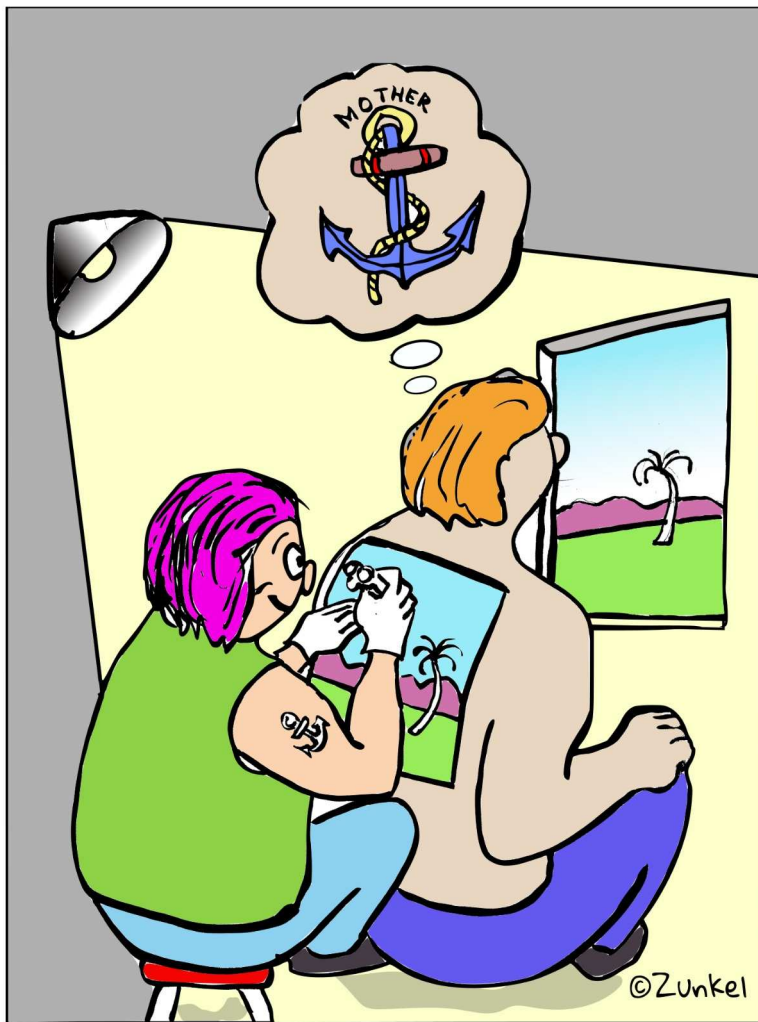
"Tell Doc he needs a bigger door!"

Plain Air



How those anatomy drawings on your doctor's office wall are made.

Plain Air

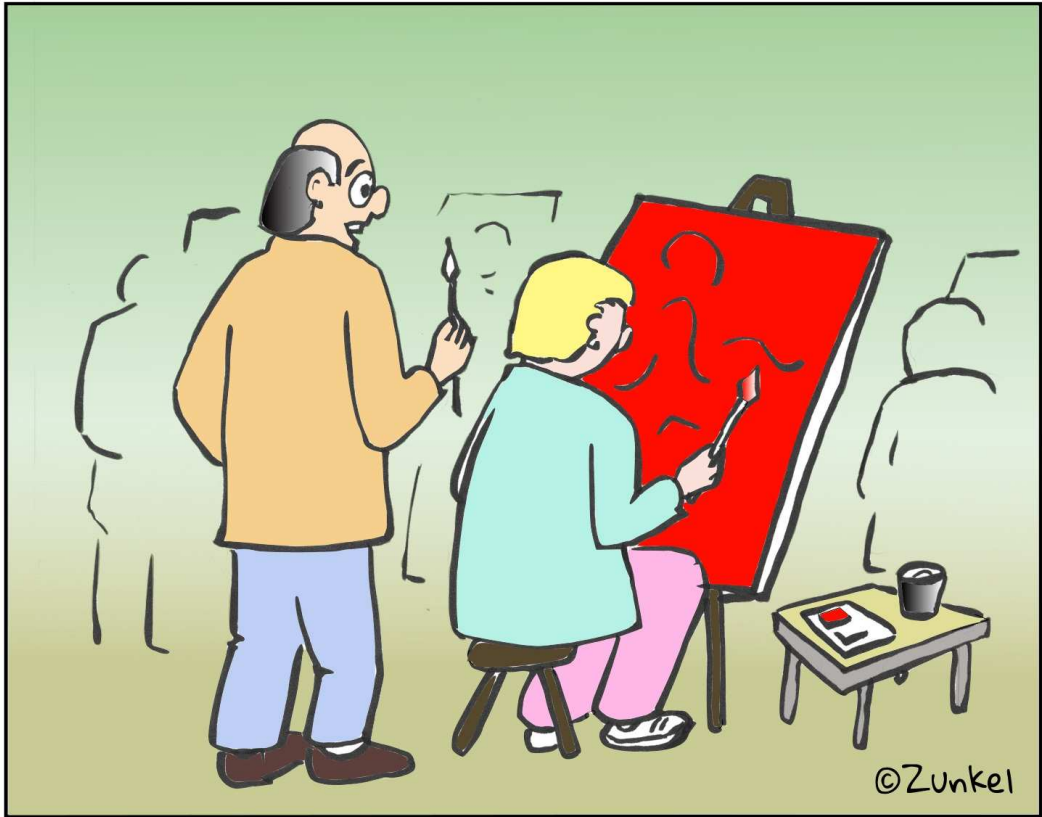


Plain Air



"We broke up, OK?"

Plain Air



"I think she said to put a LITTLE red in each painting!"

Plain Air

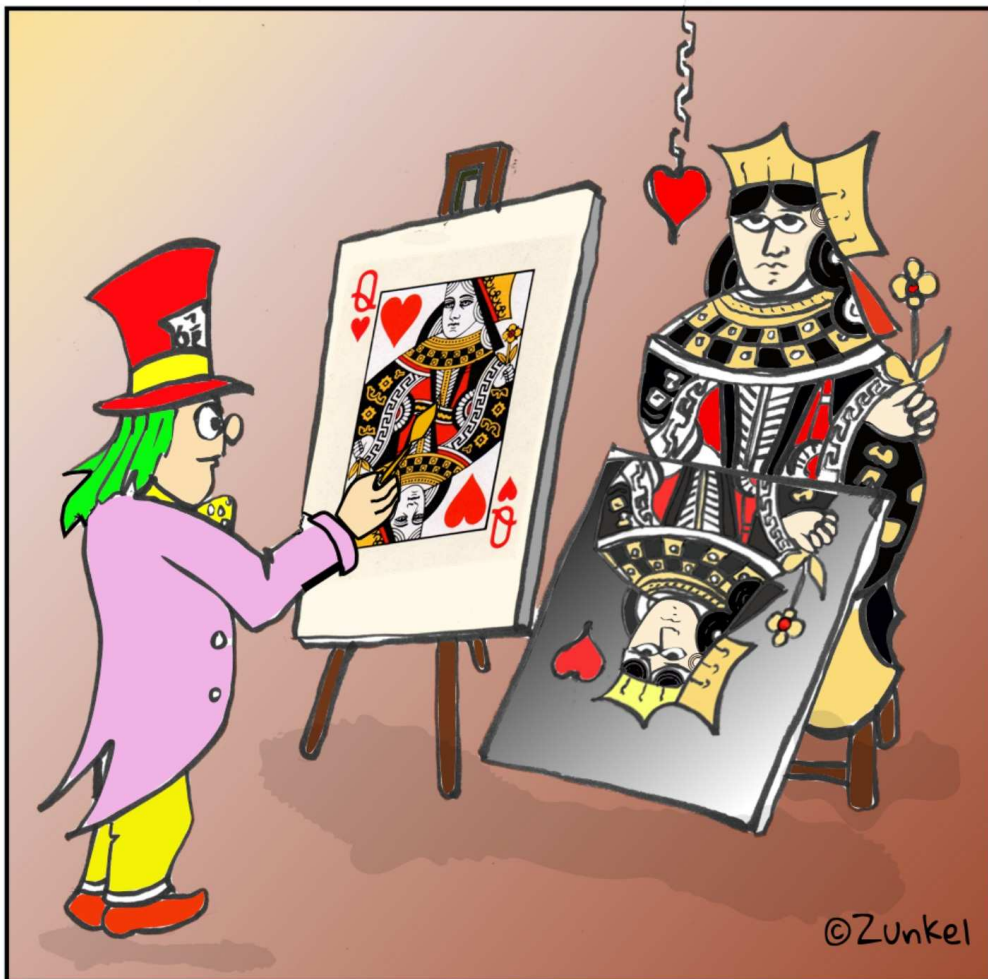


Plain Air



"I see by your clothing that you are an artist."

Plain Air



Plain Air



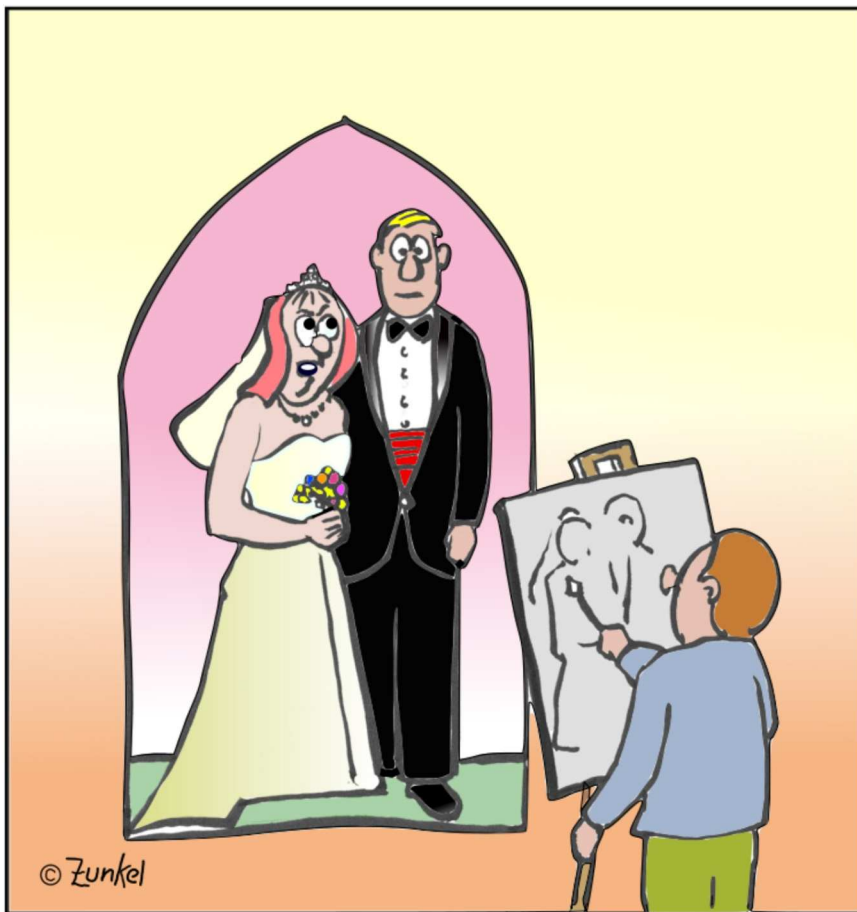
*Advice to plein air artists:
Ignore onlookers and concentrate on painting!*

Plain Air



"There he goes again, making those wacky drawings!"

Plain Air



"Tell your artist-uncle to use his goddamn smart phone!"

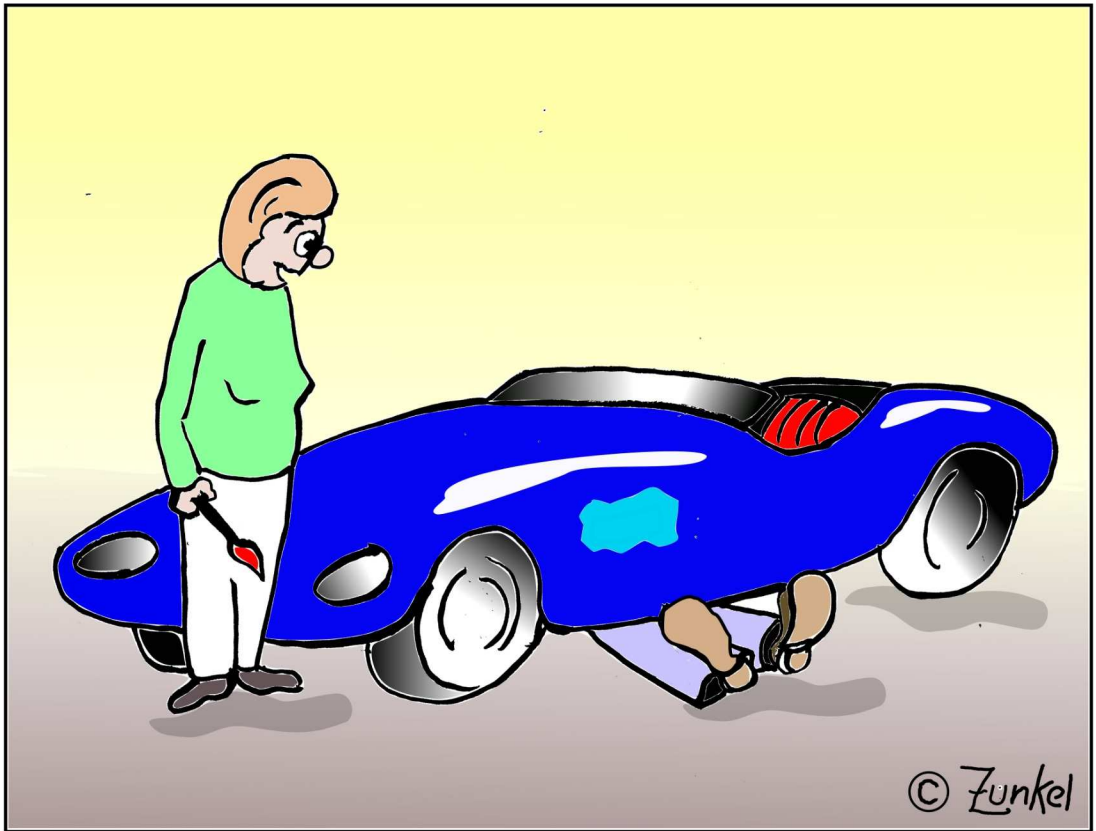
Plain Air



©ZunkeI

Plein-air painting at Bridal Veil Falls is a challenge!

Plain Air



"Darling, have you seen my Cerulean Blue?"

Plain Air



"Inspecteur, l'infâme Watercolour Fantôme has struck again!"

Plain Air



Plain Air

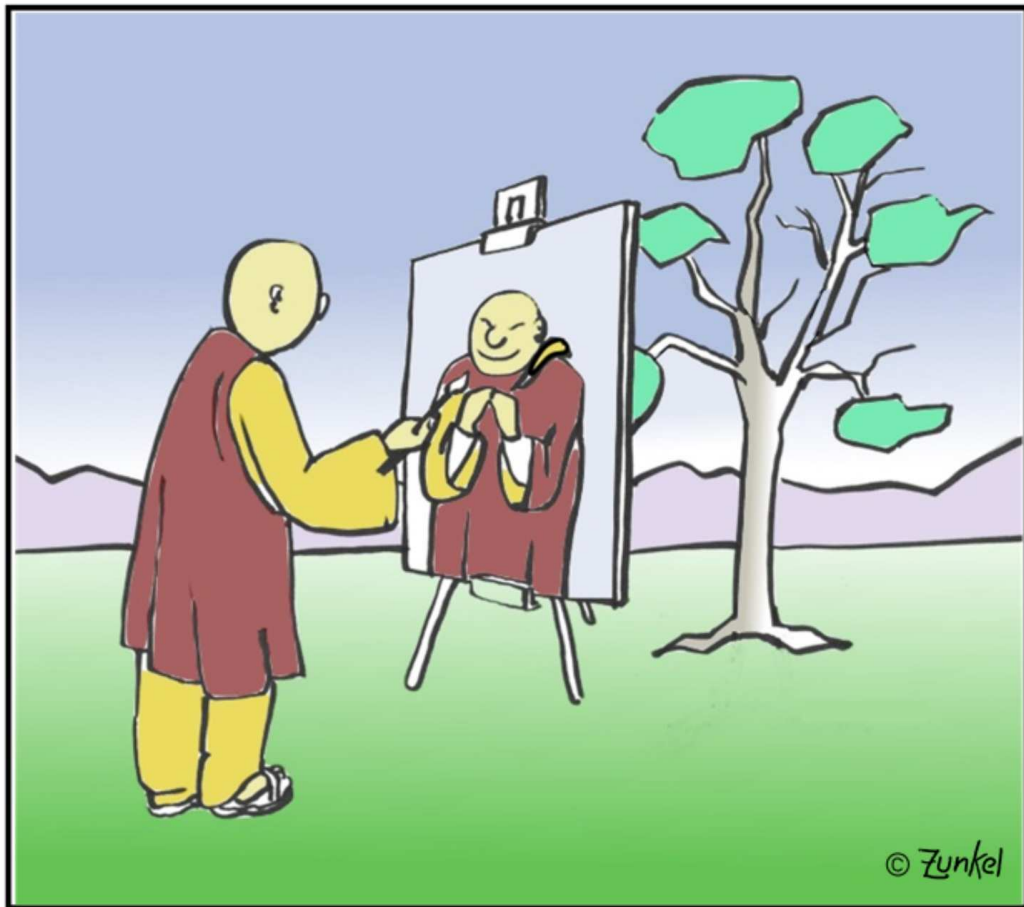


Plain Air



Halftime at the College of the Arts

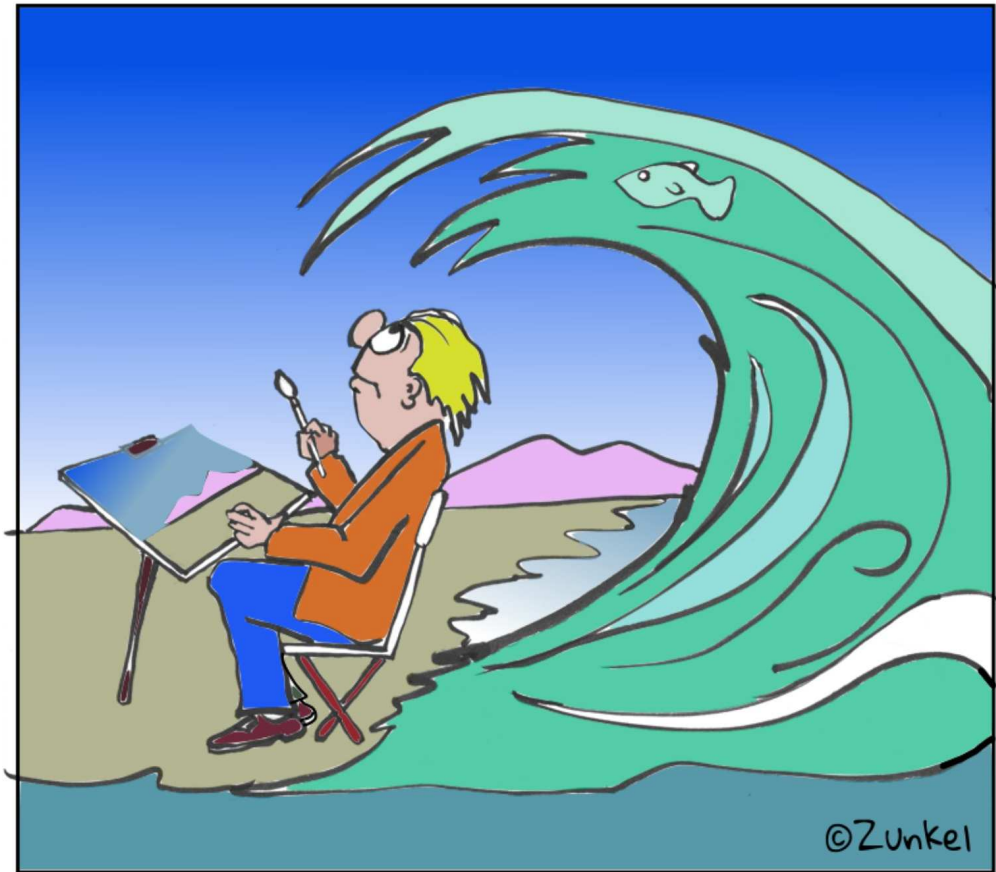
Plain Air



Plain Air

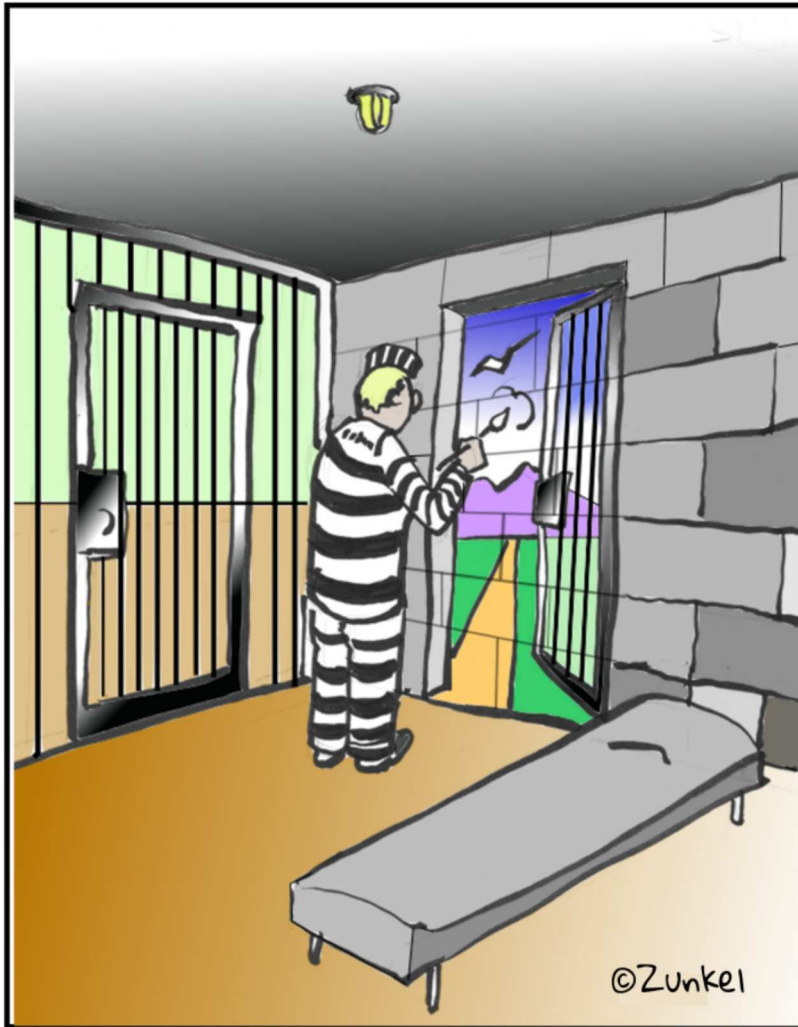


Plain Air



Never turn your back on the sea!

Plain Air



Plain Air



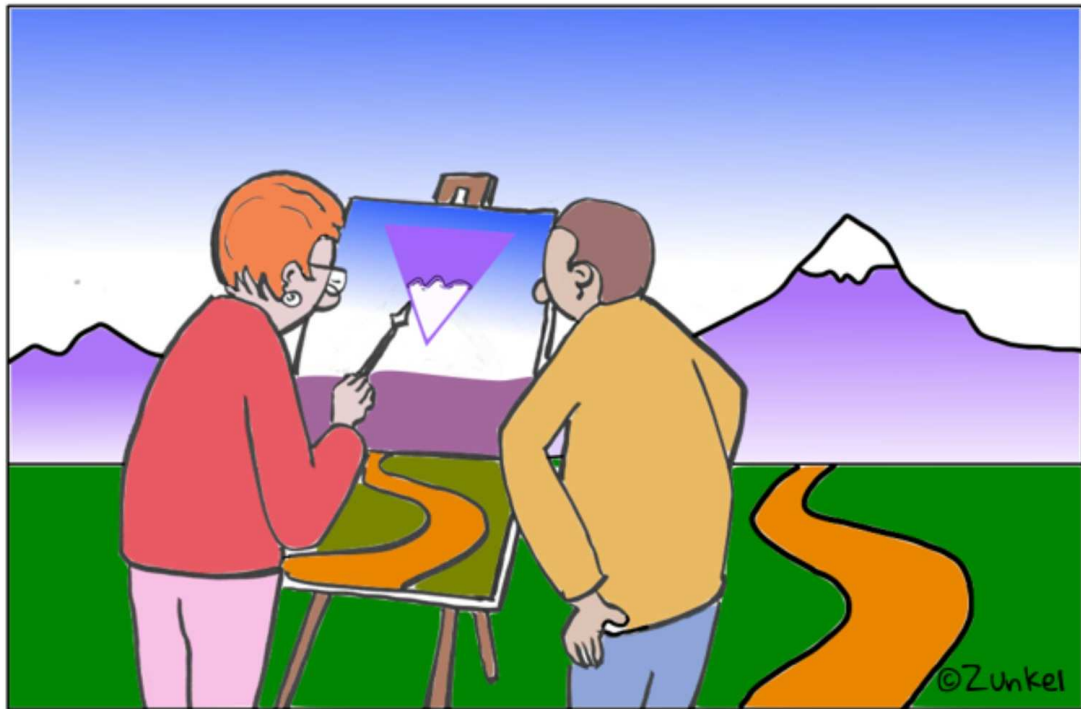
"Smile!"

Plain Air



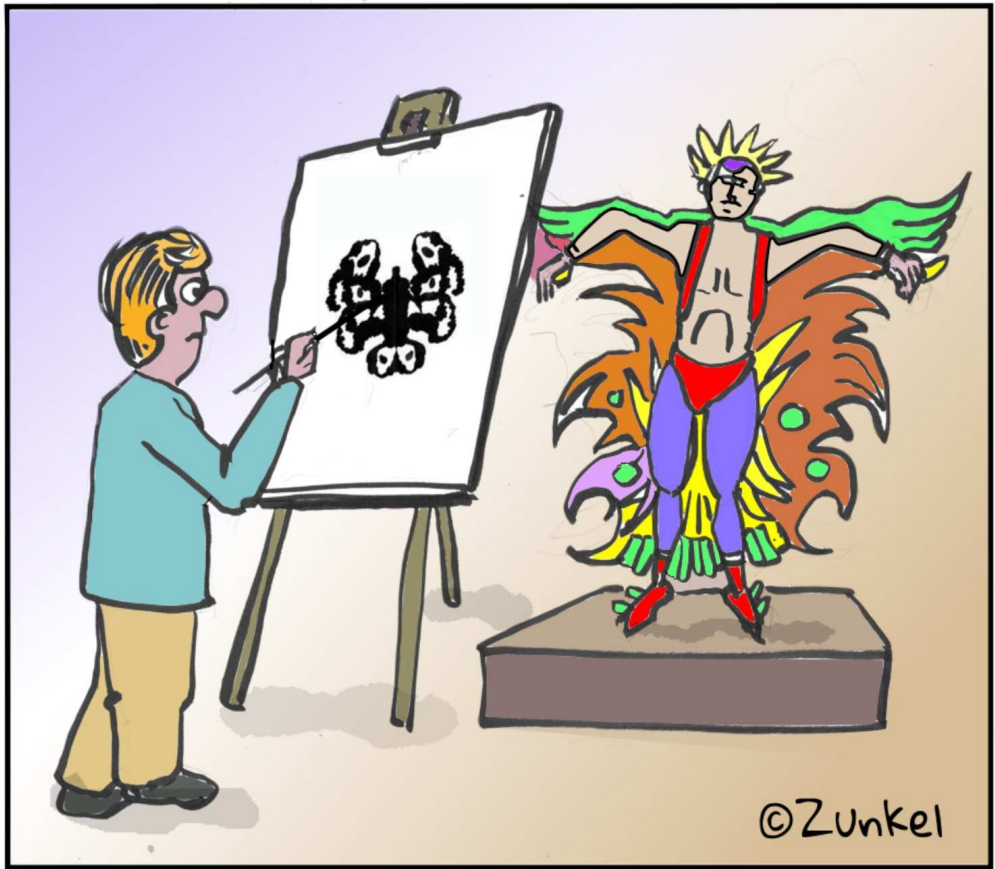
"Is the drought over?"

Plain Air



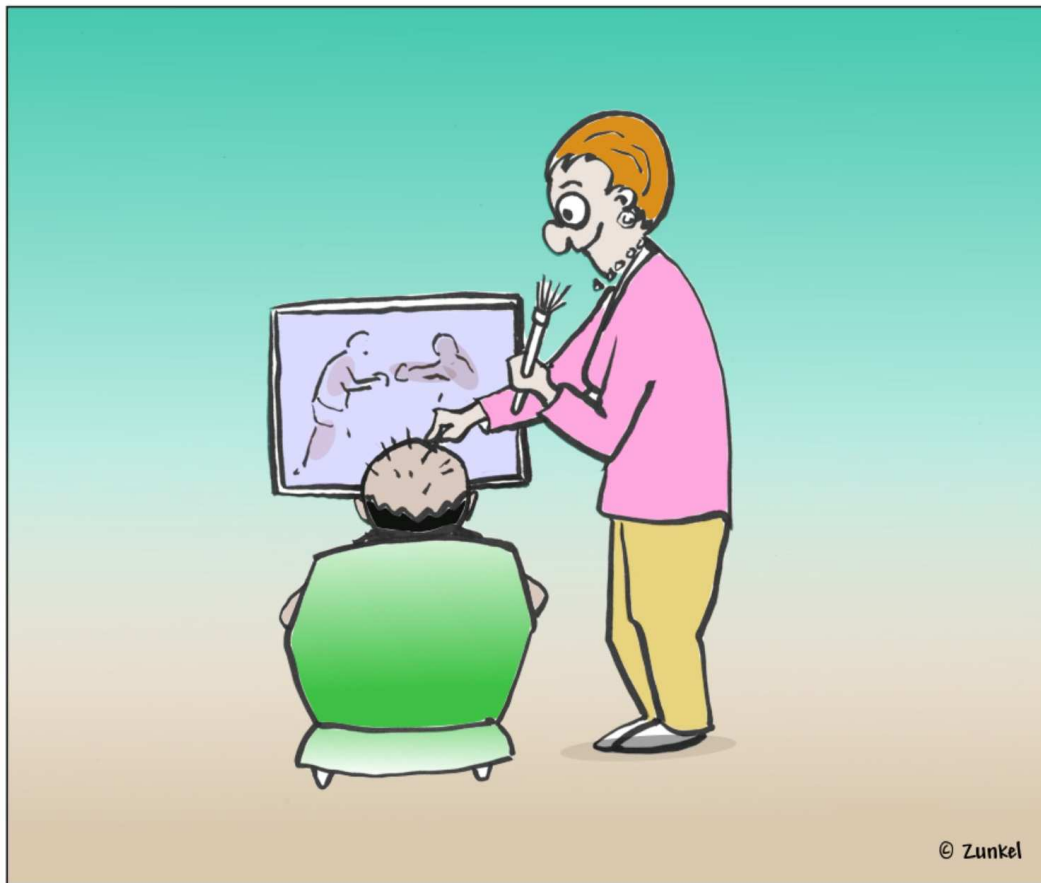
"New Bifocals?"

Plain Air



Rorschach paints his brother-in-law, Icarus

Plain Air



"Hey!"

Plain Air



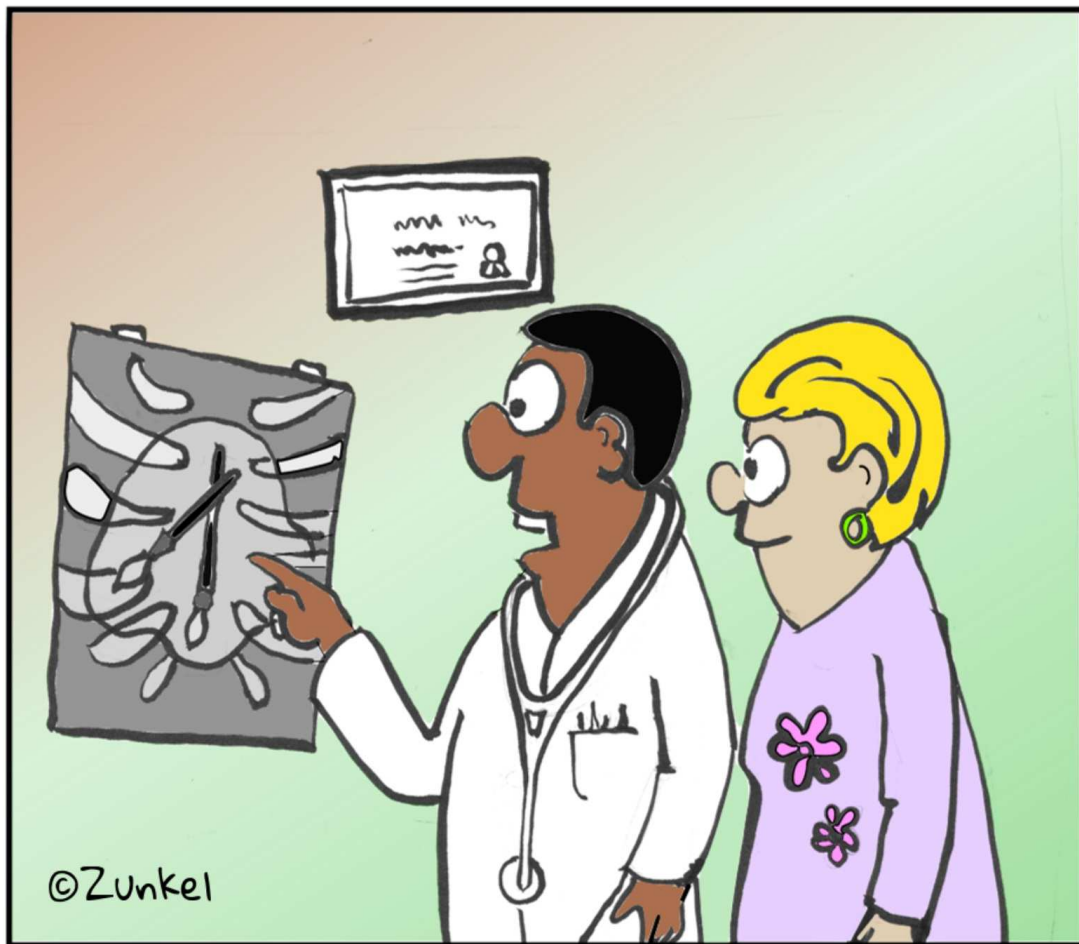
"Just wait 'til I'm finished, OKAY?"

Plain Air



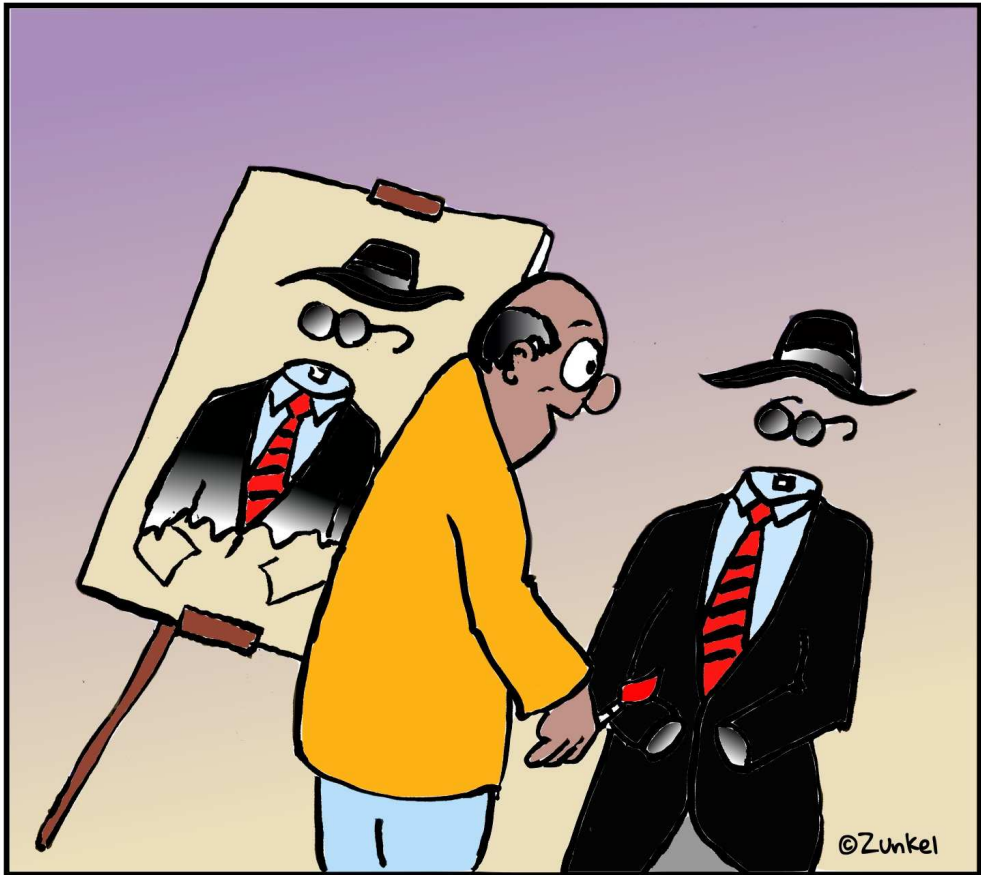
"I hear he gets his inspiration from above!"

Plain Air



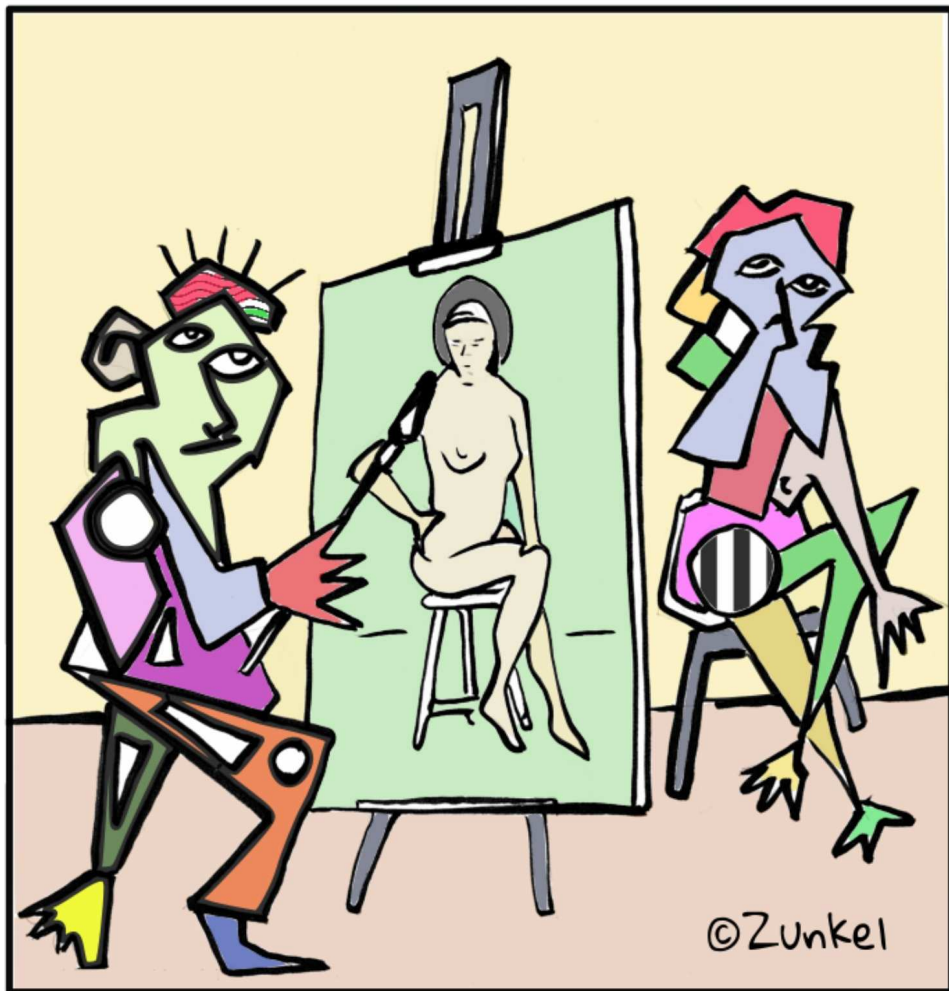
"I see you're licking your brushes again!"

Plain Air

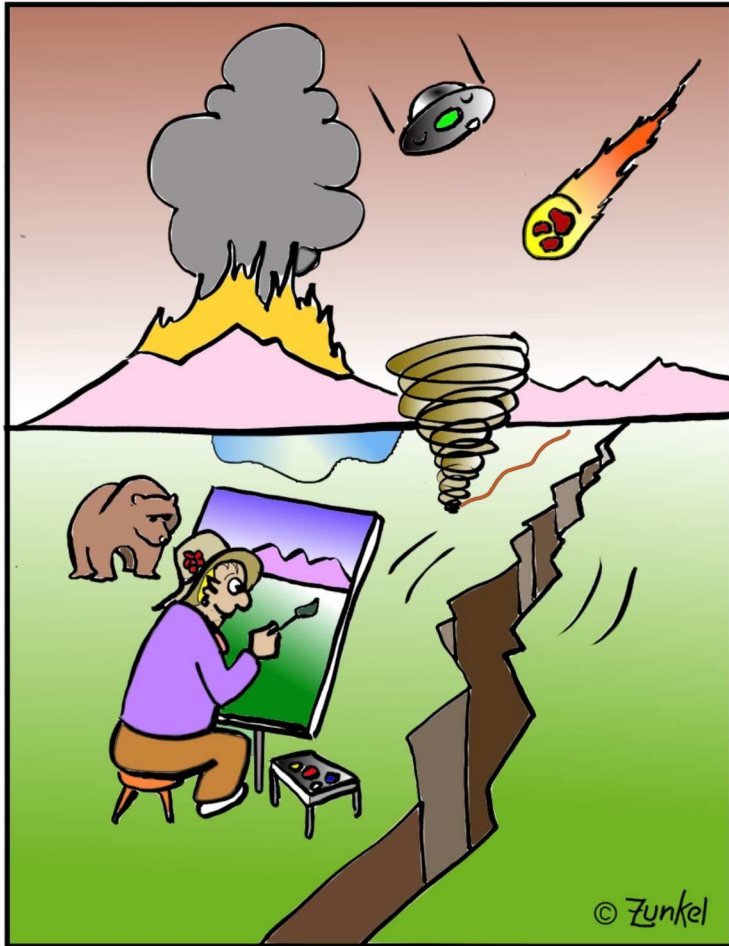


"Smile!"

Plain Air



Plain Air



Painting plein air in California

Plain Air

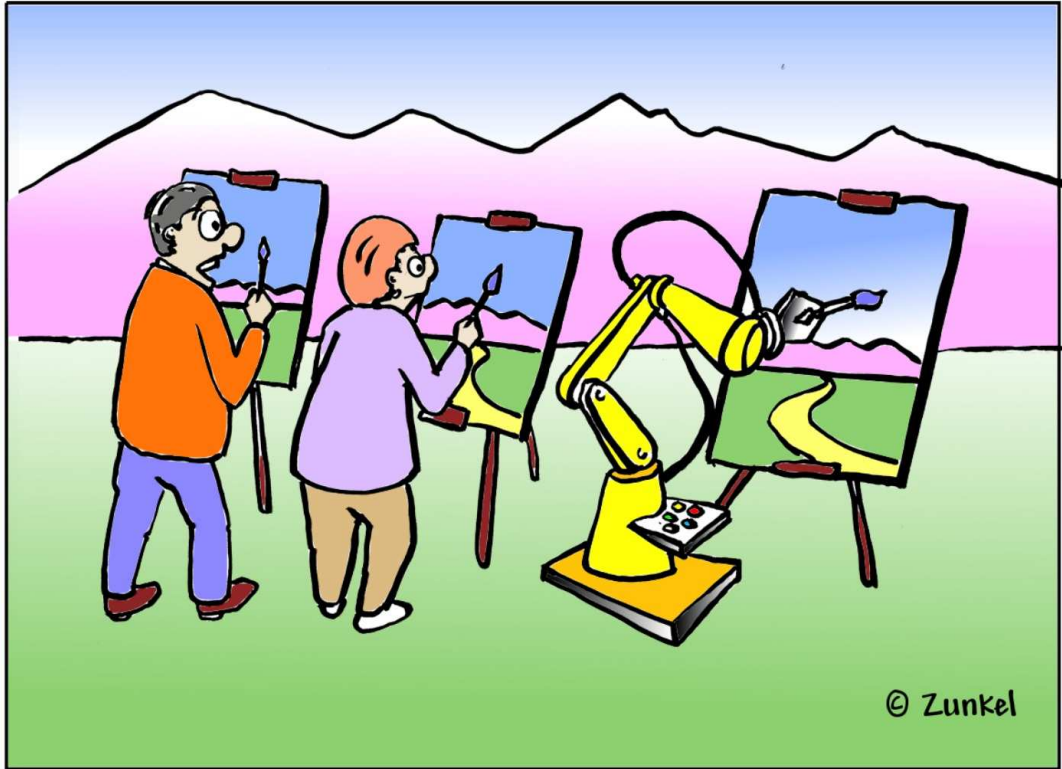


Plain Air



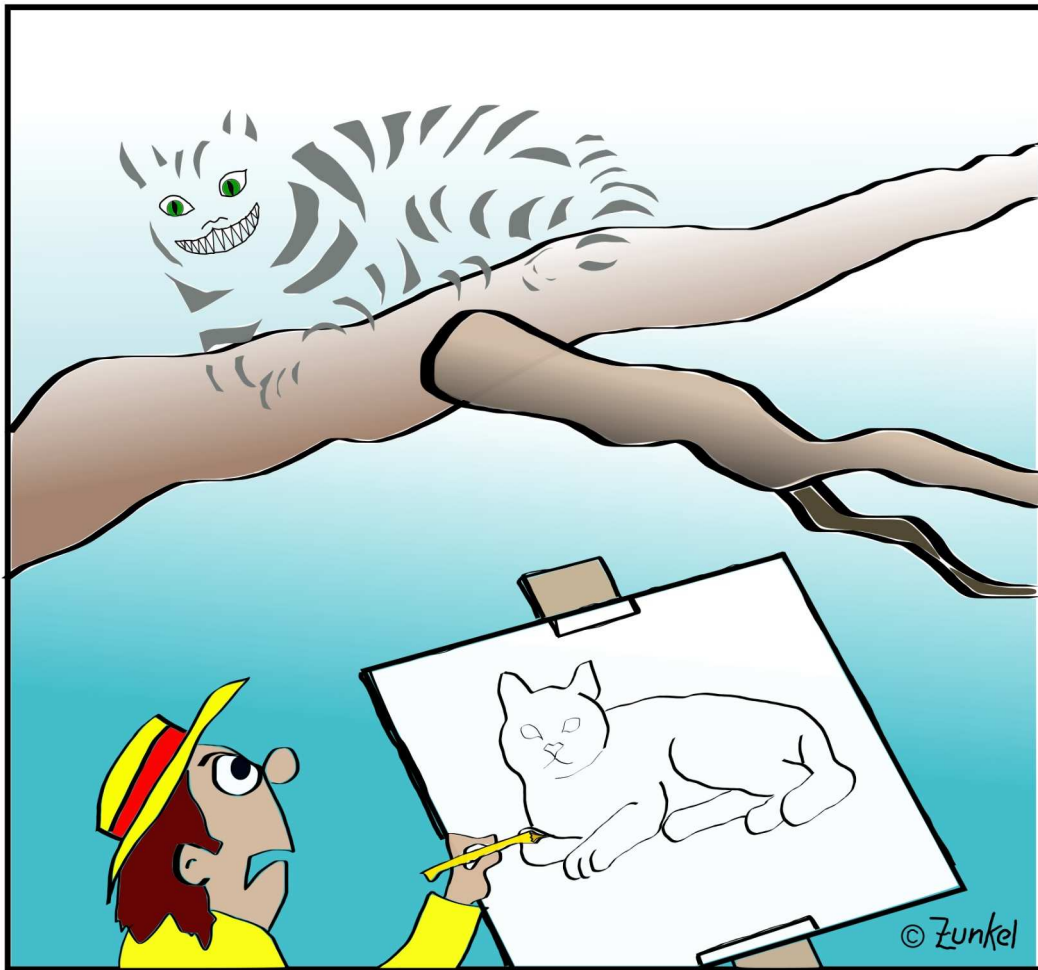
"Are we licking our brushes again, Mrs. Philpott?"

Plain Air



"I have a bad feeling about this!"

Plain Air

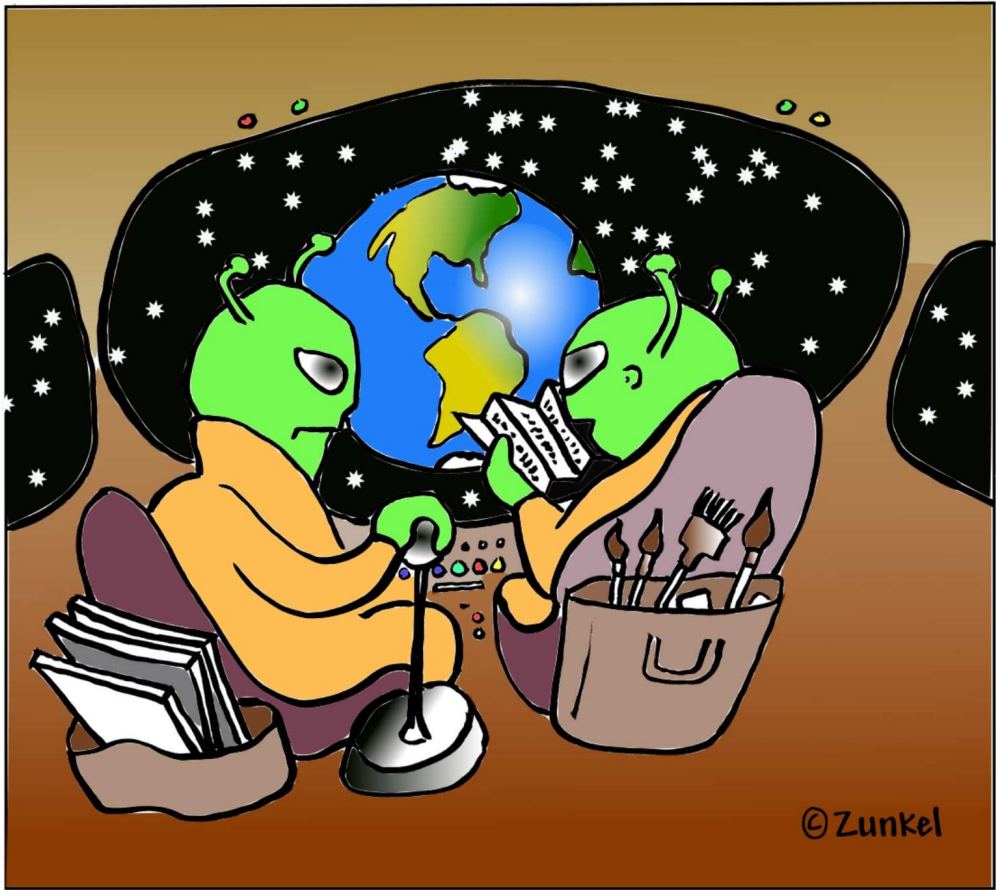


"Will you please stop it?"

Plain Air



Plain Air



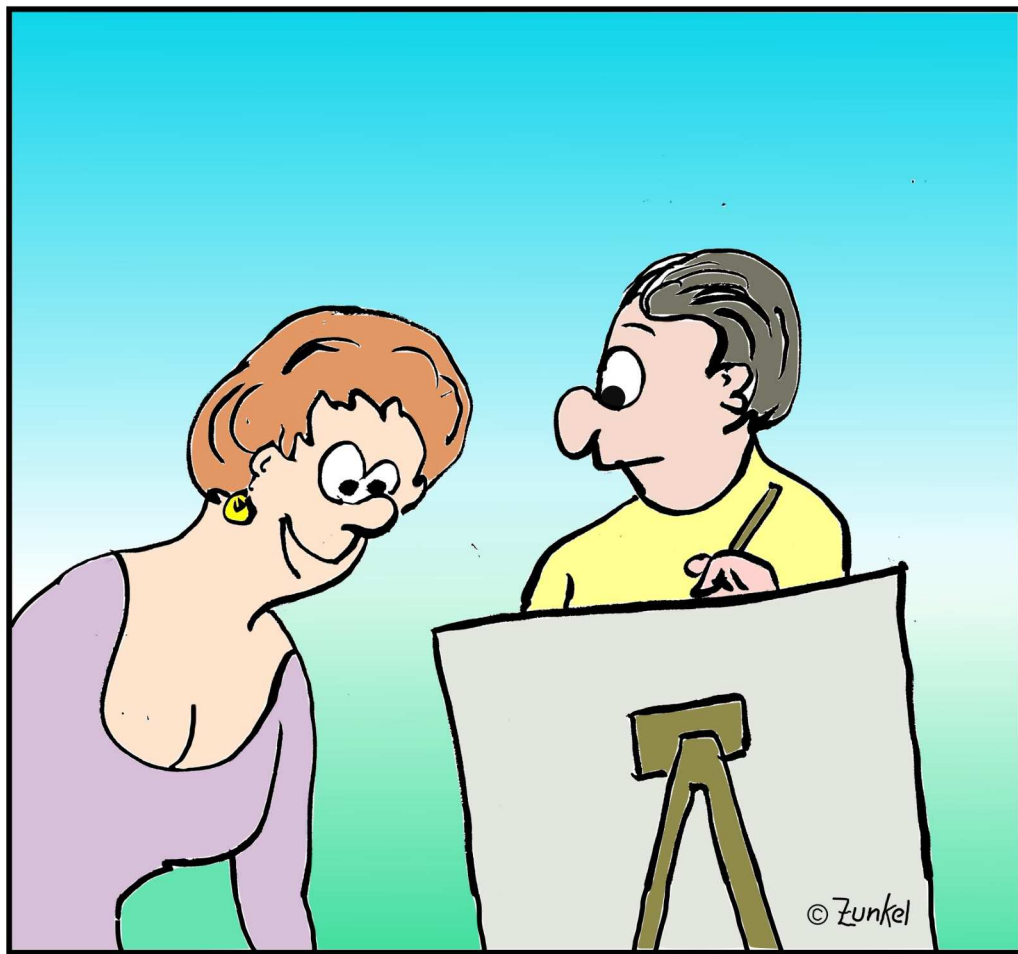
"It says not to go there. The natives are hostile!"

Plain Air



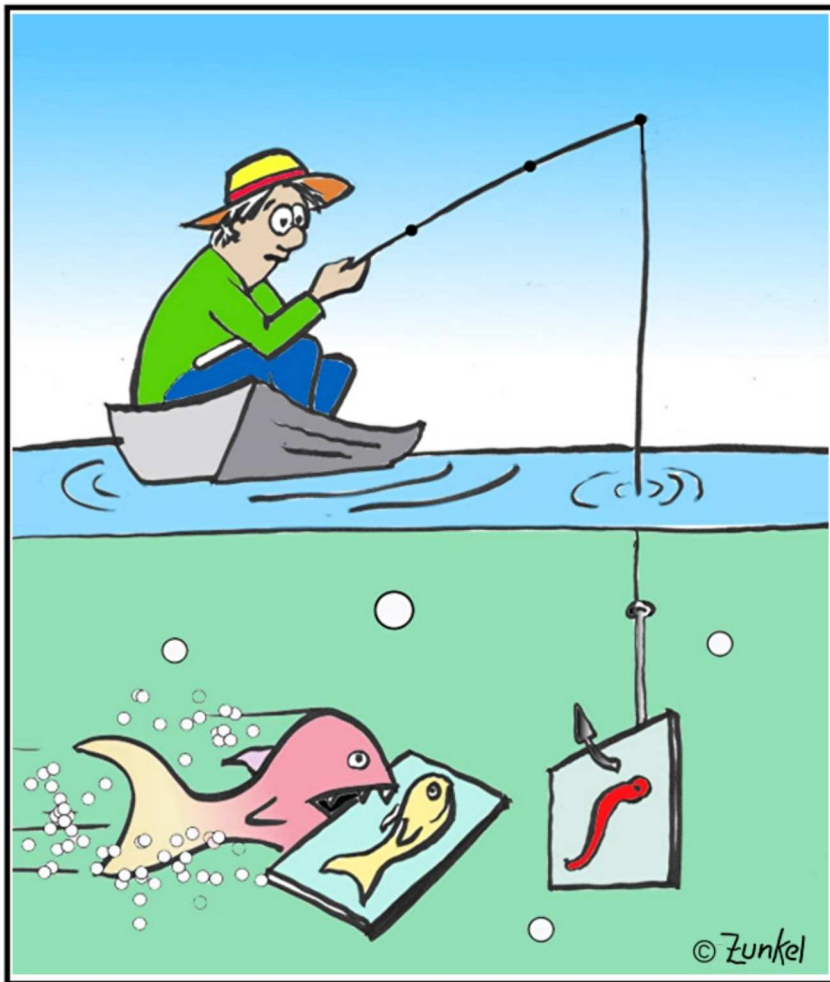
"It says he gave up a TV career to be an artist!"

Plain Air



"Mind if I look?"

Plain Air



© Zunkel

Plain Air



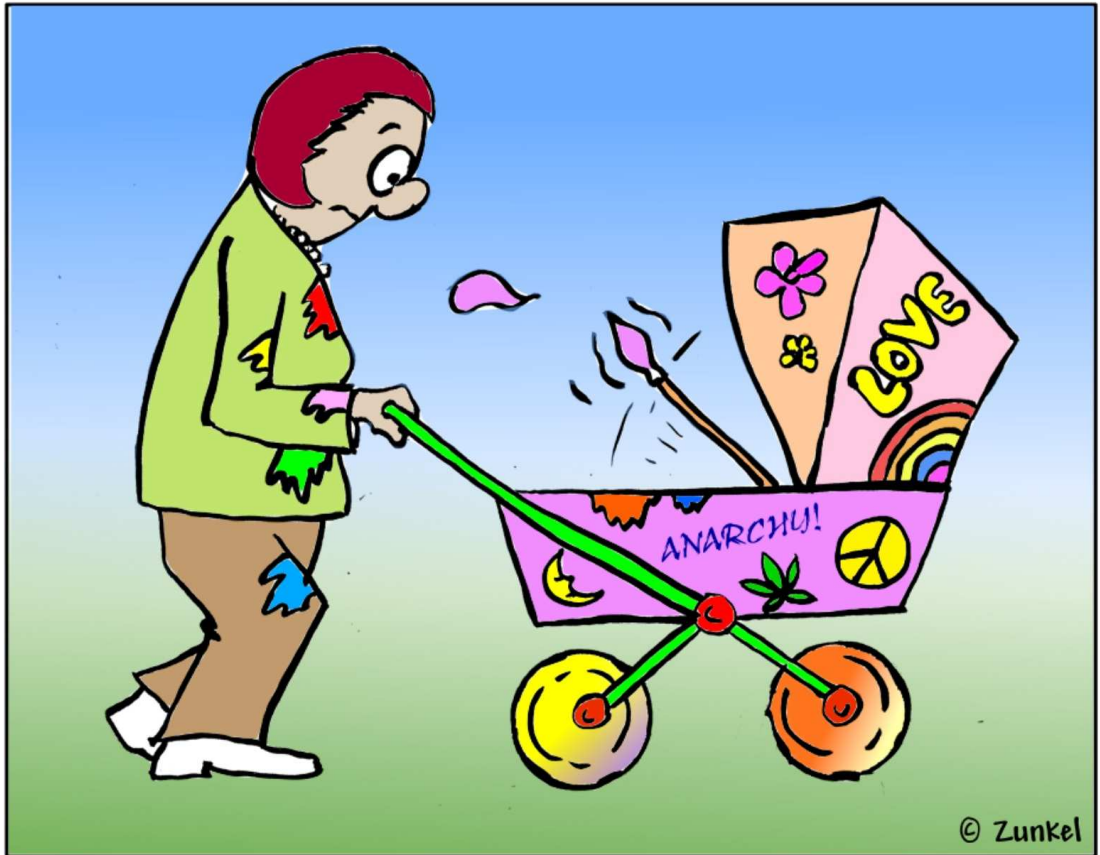
Plain Air



© Zunkel

"The website said it will make me a better artist!"

Plain Air



"Mama, don't let your babies grow up to be artists!"

Plain Air



Plain Air

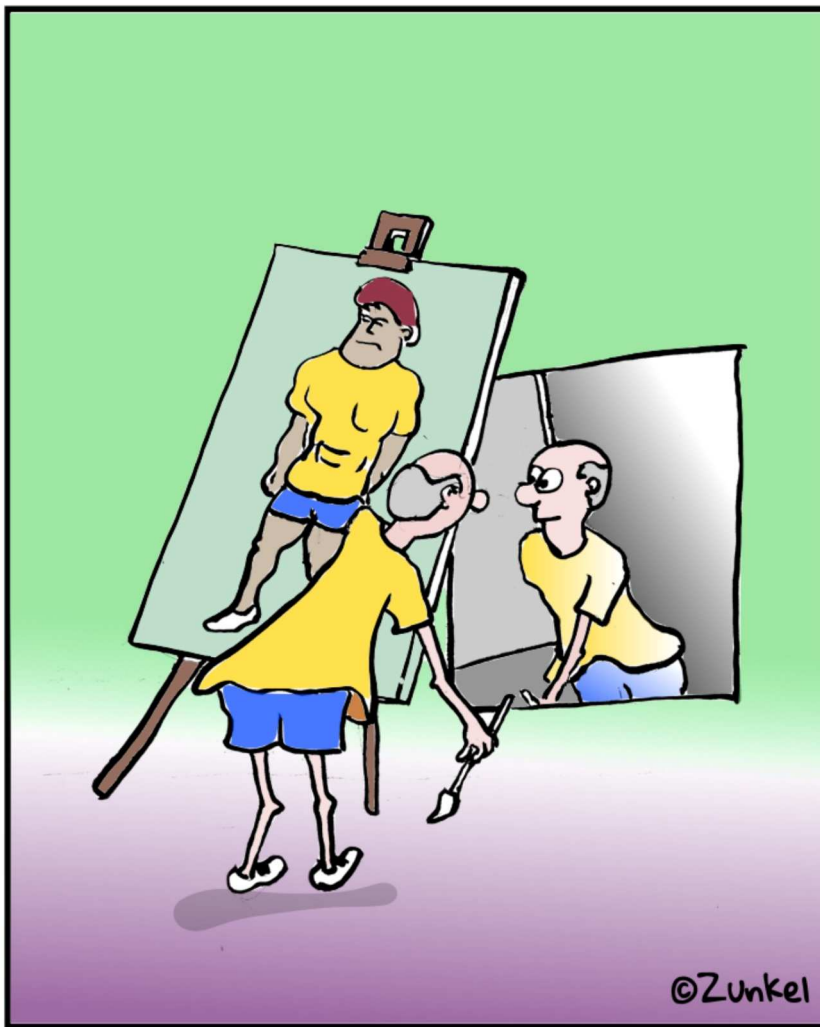


Phantom of the optical illusion

Plain Air



Plain Air



Plain Air

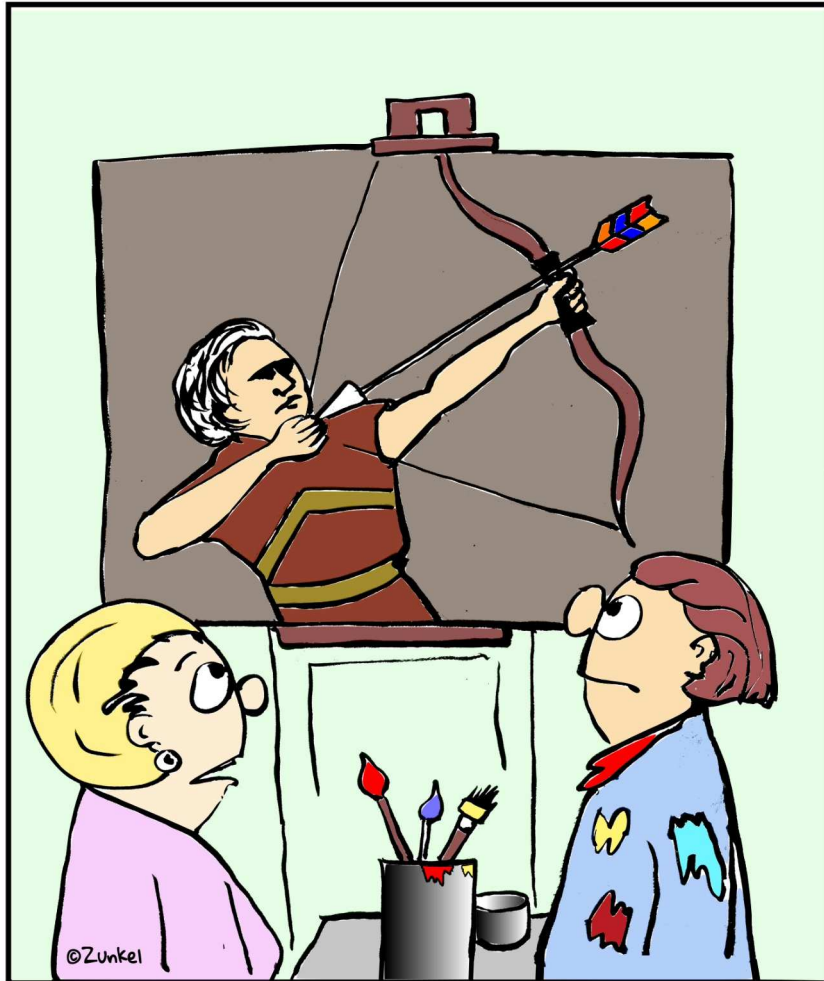


"Maybe we should call his wife!"

Plain Air



Plain Air



"Mind if I make a tiny criticism?"

Plain Air



"But I still can't get him to talk!"

Plain Air



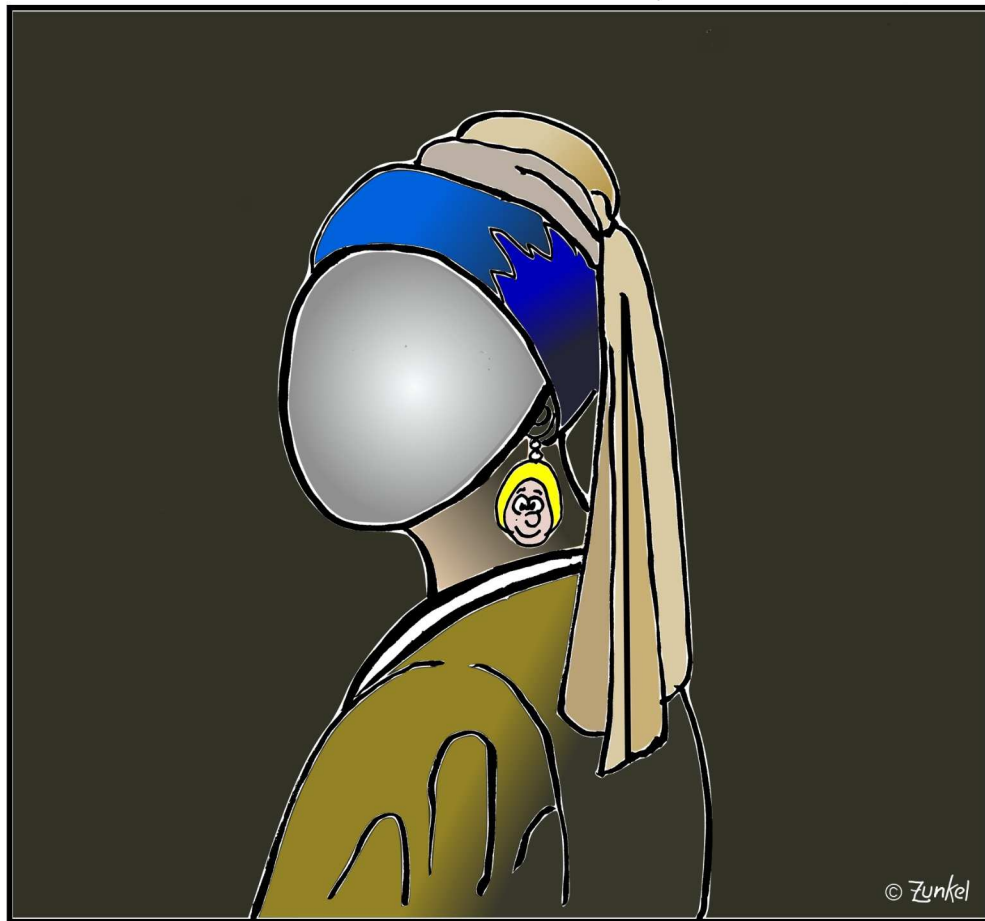
"I've never seen a flying artist either!"

Plain Air



"Hey Rembrandt, over here!"

Plain Air



Pearl with a Girl Earring

Plain Air



Plain Air



"Could you come back in about an hour?"

Plain Air



Plain Air



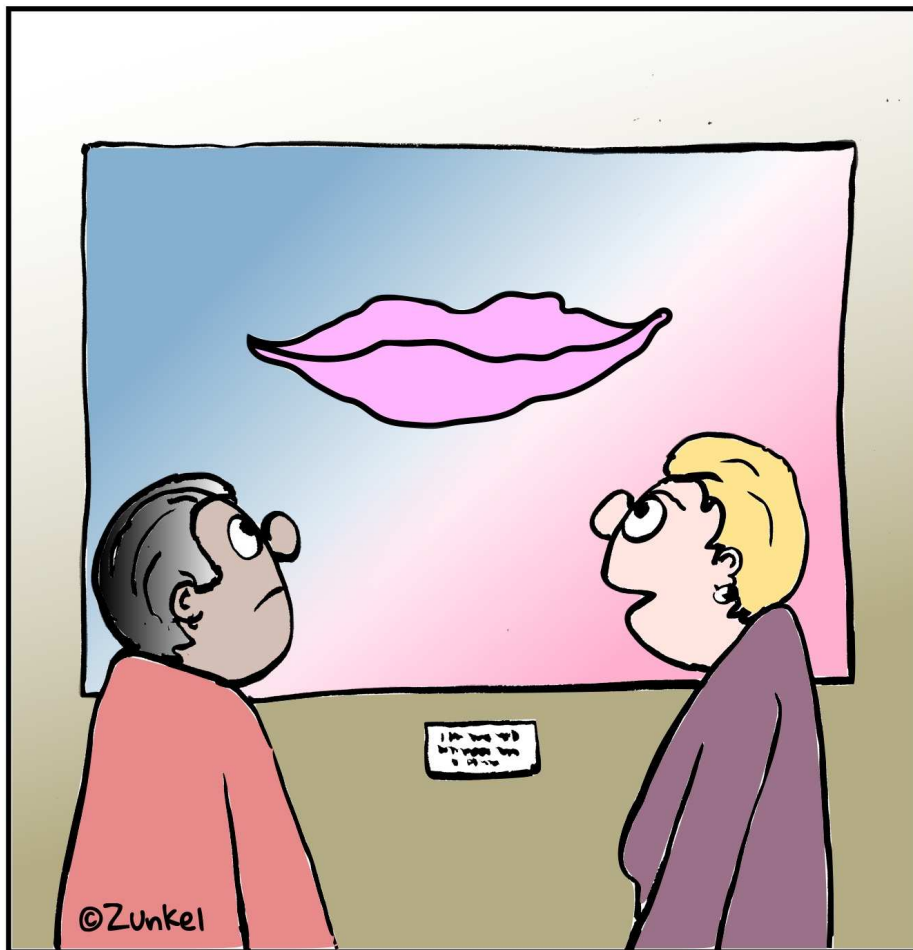
"You're making me look fat!"

Plain Air



"He dropped his #12 Winsor & Newton Series 7 watercolor brush!"

Plain Air



"It's not speaking to me"

Plain Air



"We plead guilty to mixing complementary colors!"

Plain Air



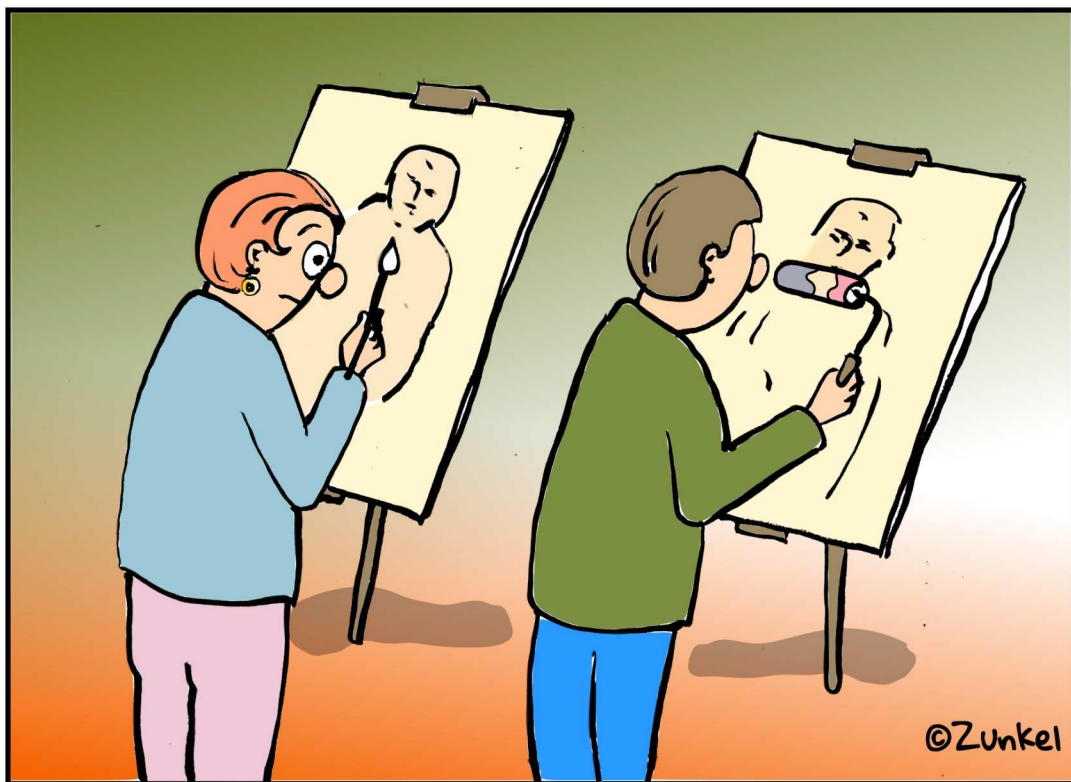
"Madam, this is an *artistic license!*"

Plain Air



"Drawing a blank"?

Plain Air

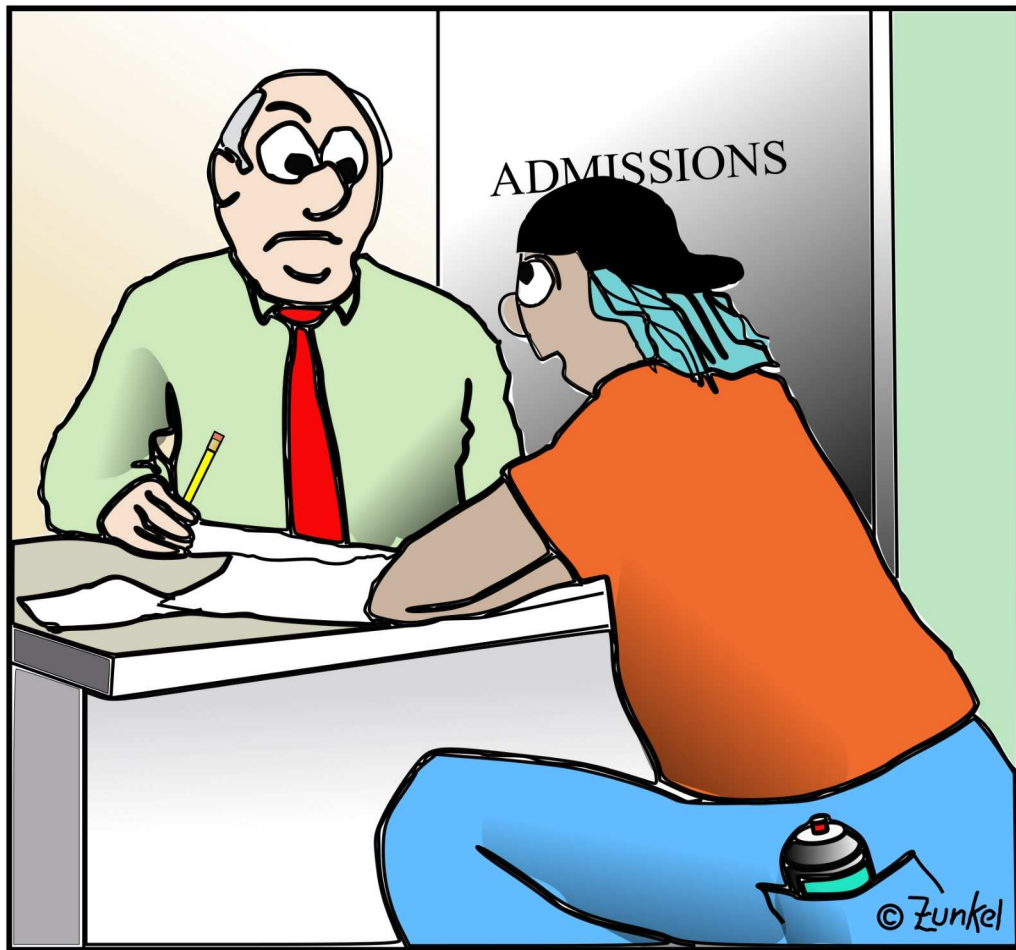


Plain Air



"Do you mind?"

Plain Air



"I want to major in graphic vandalism!"

Plain Air

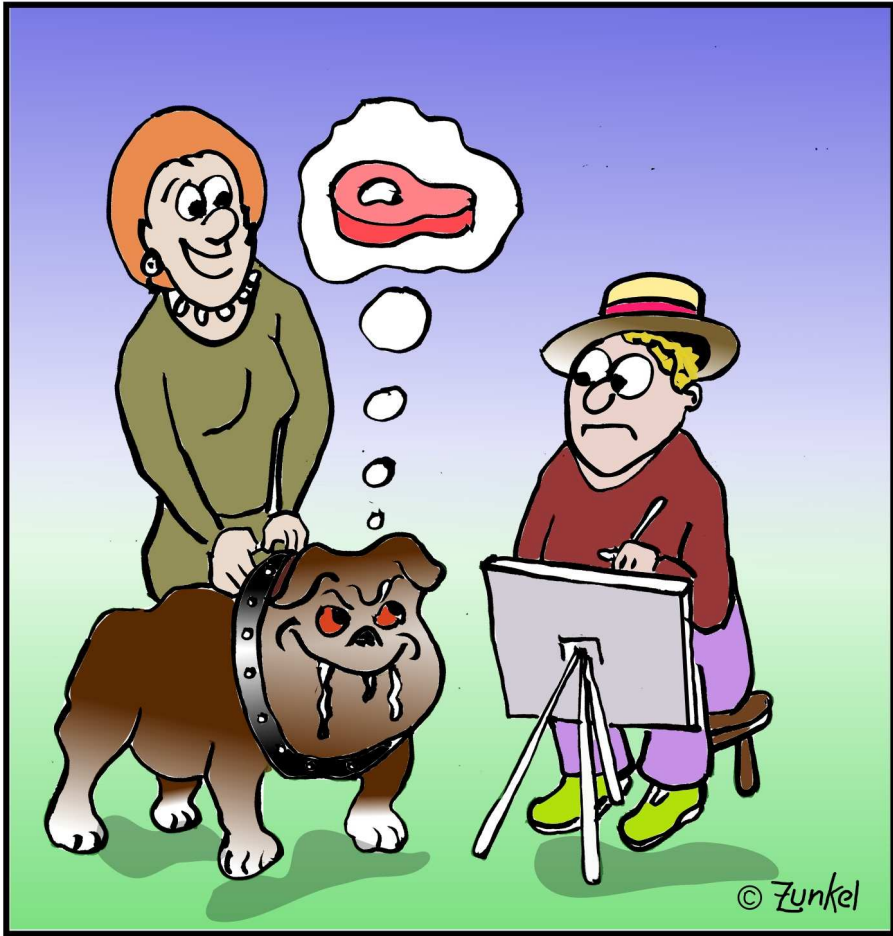


Plain Air



"Can you turn that thing down?"

Plain Air



"Oh, don't worry, he doesn't bite!"

Plain Air



Plain Air



"Do you have something to help me with perspective?"

Plain Air

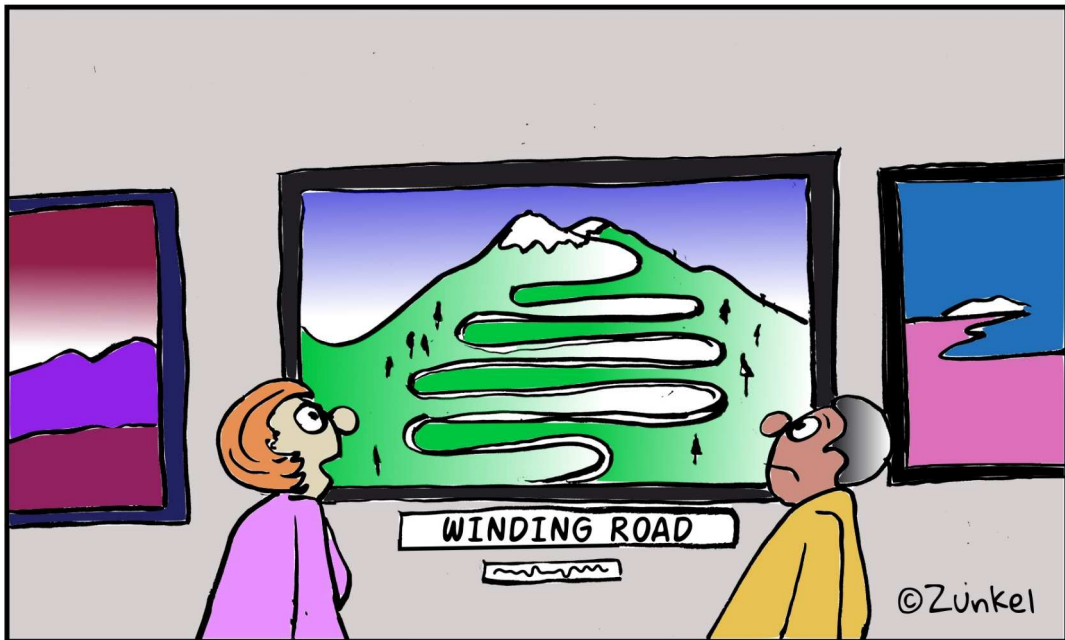


Plain Air



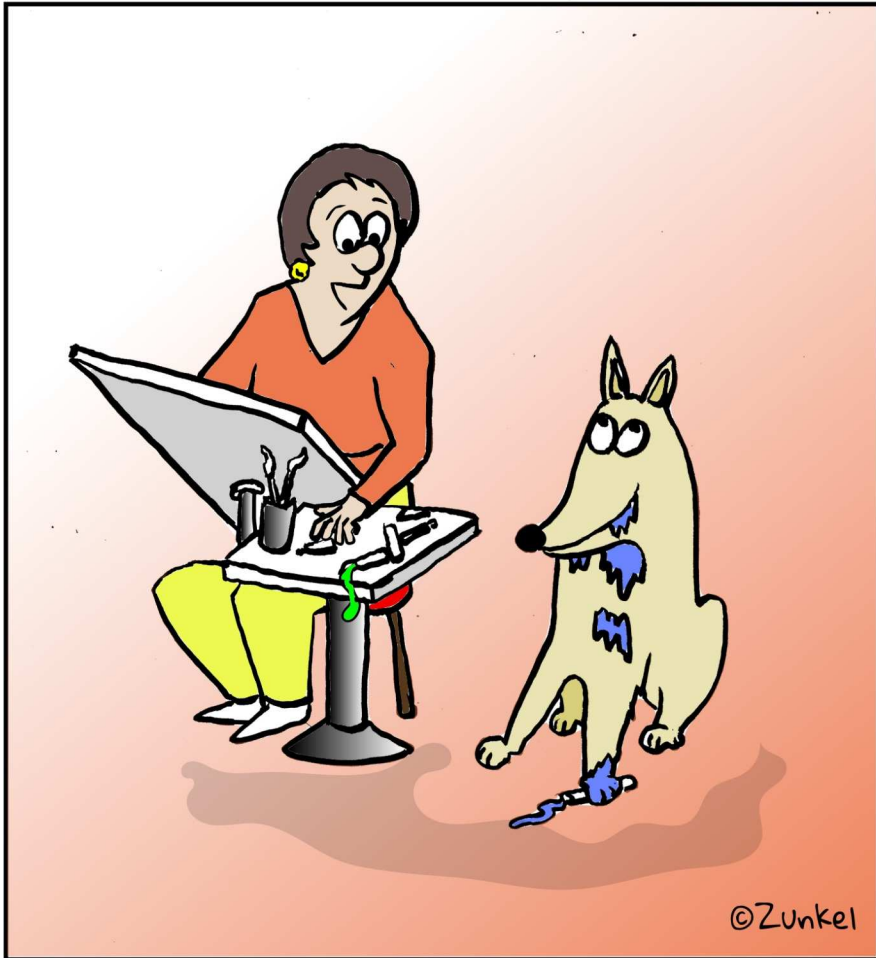
"What part of 42 inches maximum do you not understand?"

Plain Air



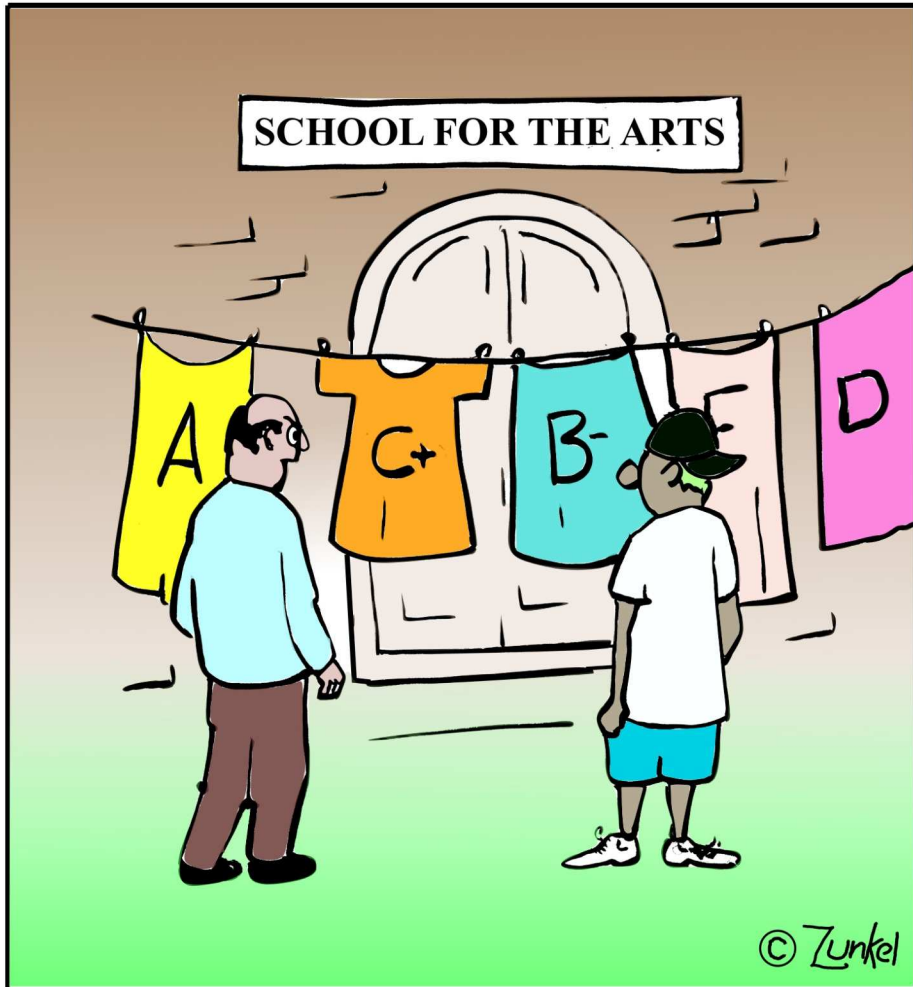
"It's beautiful, but it makes me car sick!"

Plain Air



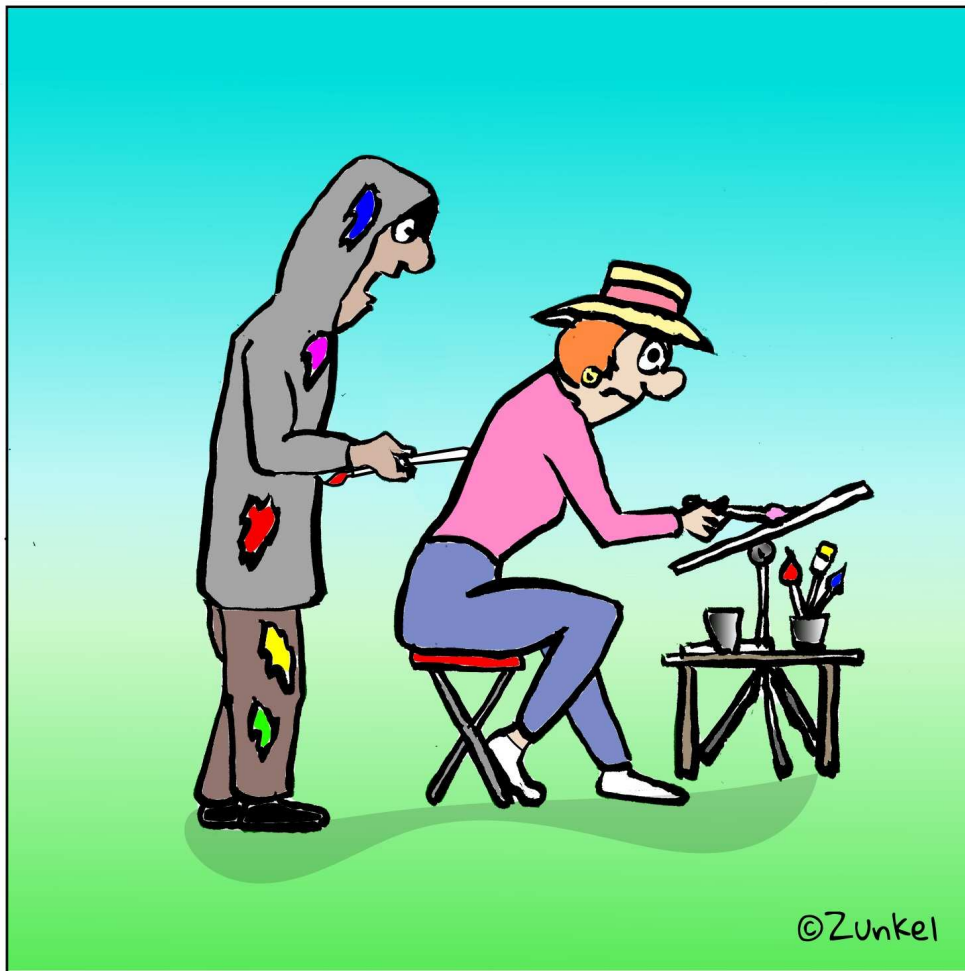
"Now what did I do with the cobalt blue?"

Plain Air



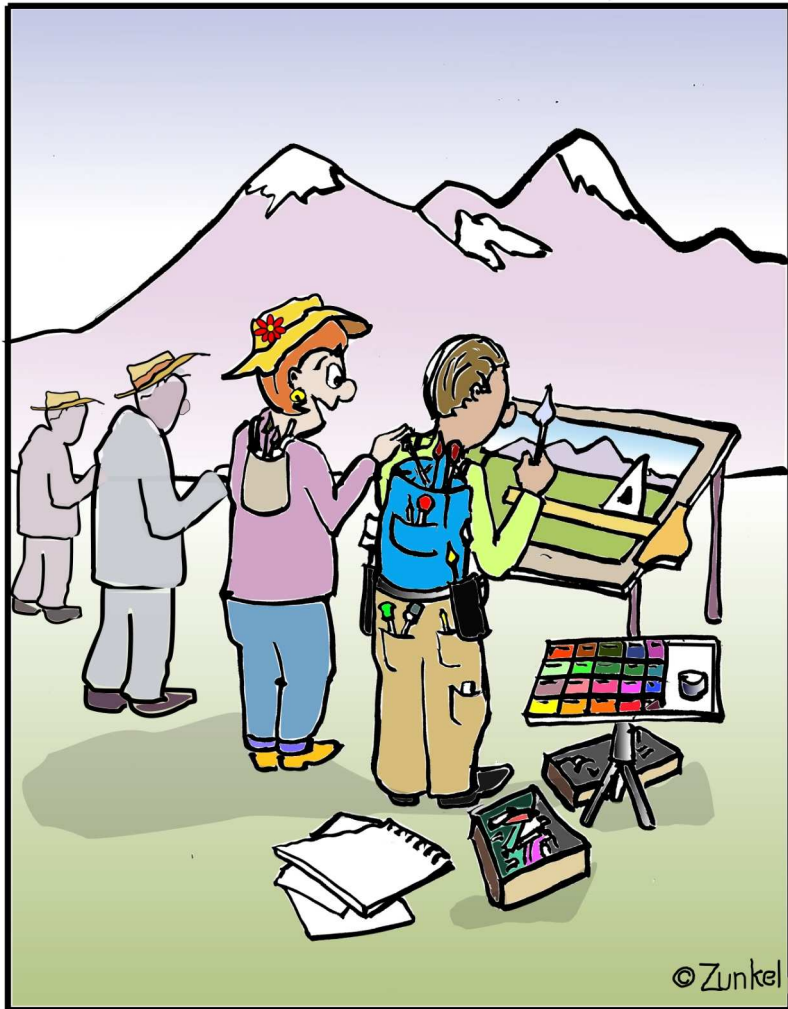
"This is not what we mean by 'graded wash!'"

Plain Air



"Hand over that Kolinsky red sable #10 round!"

Plain Air



© Zunkel

"New to painting plein air?"

Plain Air



"Forget our bug spray, did we?"

Plain Air



"Uncle George, is that you?"

Plain Air

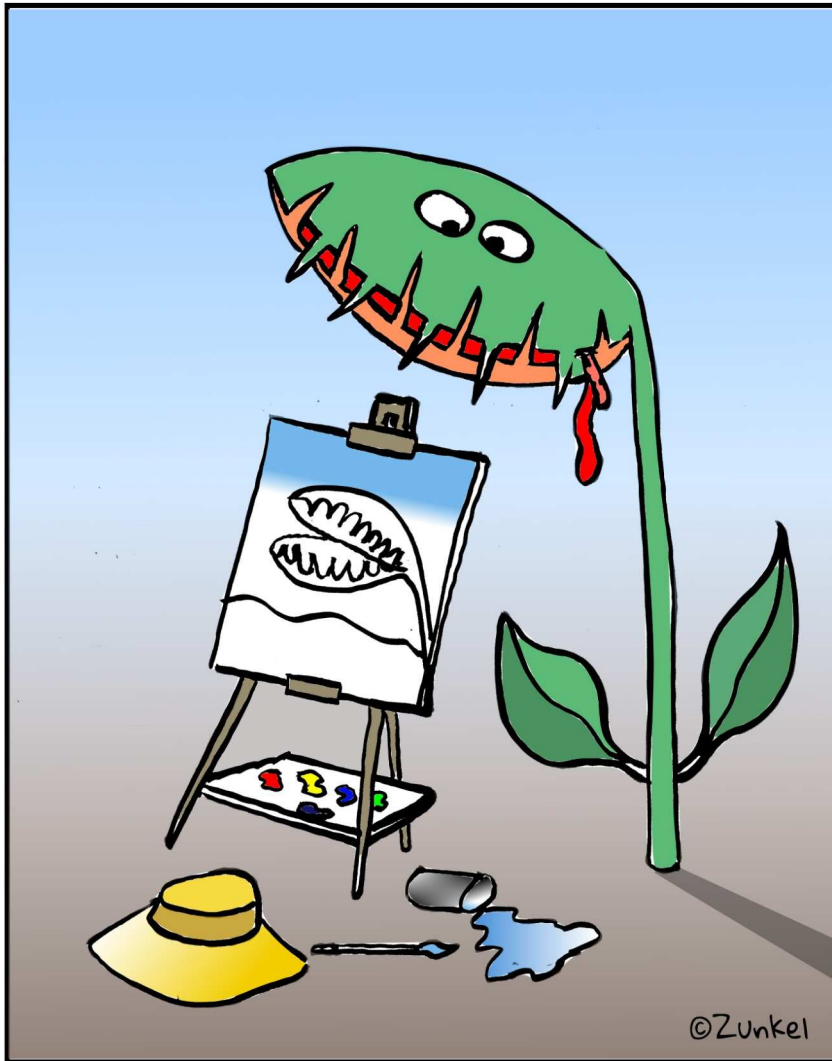


Plain Air



"It's Phil's first 'Open Studio'!"

Plain Air

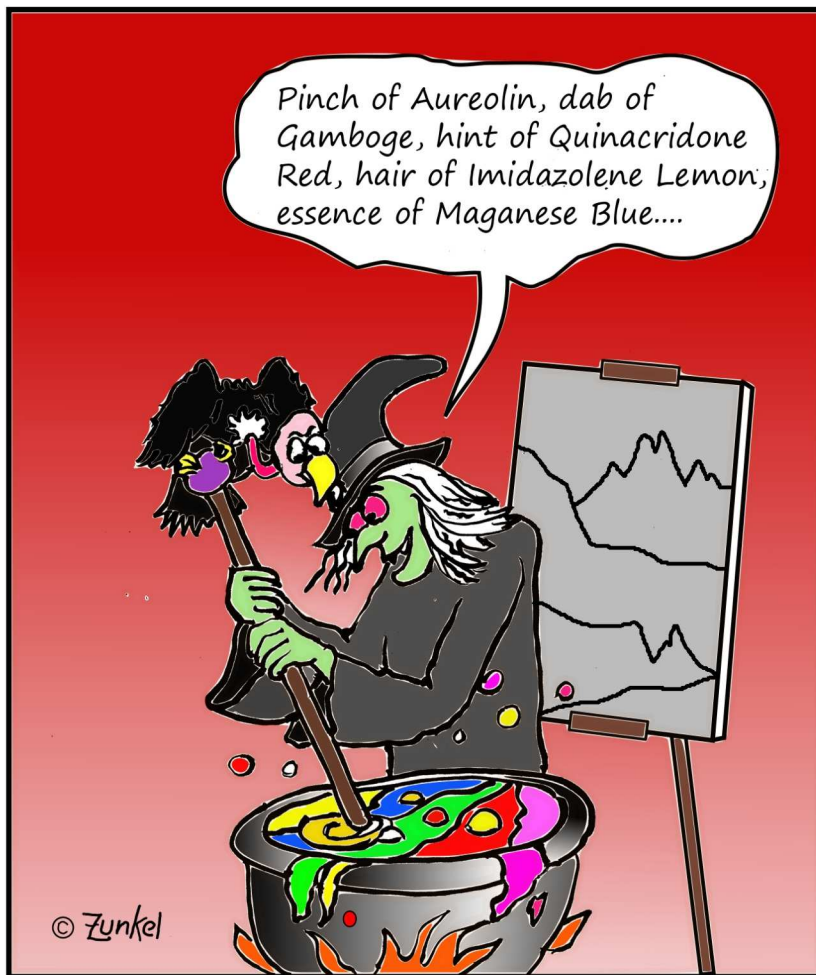


Plain Air



"Lenny, don't color on the wall!"

Plain Air



Color mixing, it really is witchcraft!

Plain Air



"Maybe you should consider painting plein air!"

Plain Air



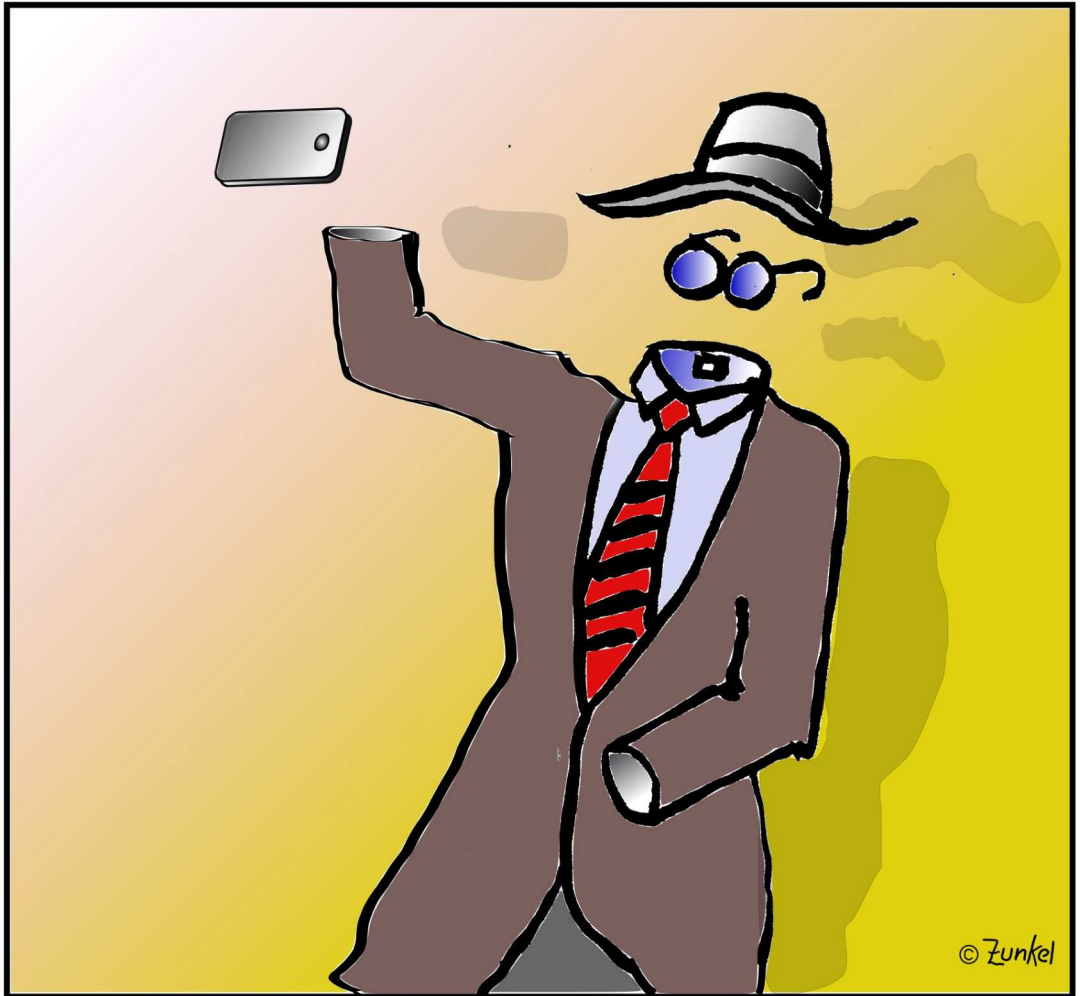
"Just take me to your leader, OKAY?"

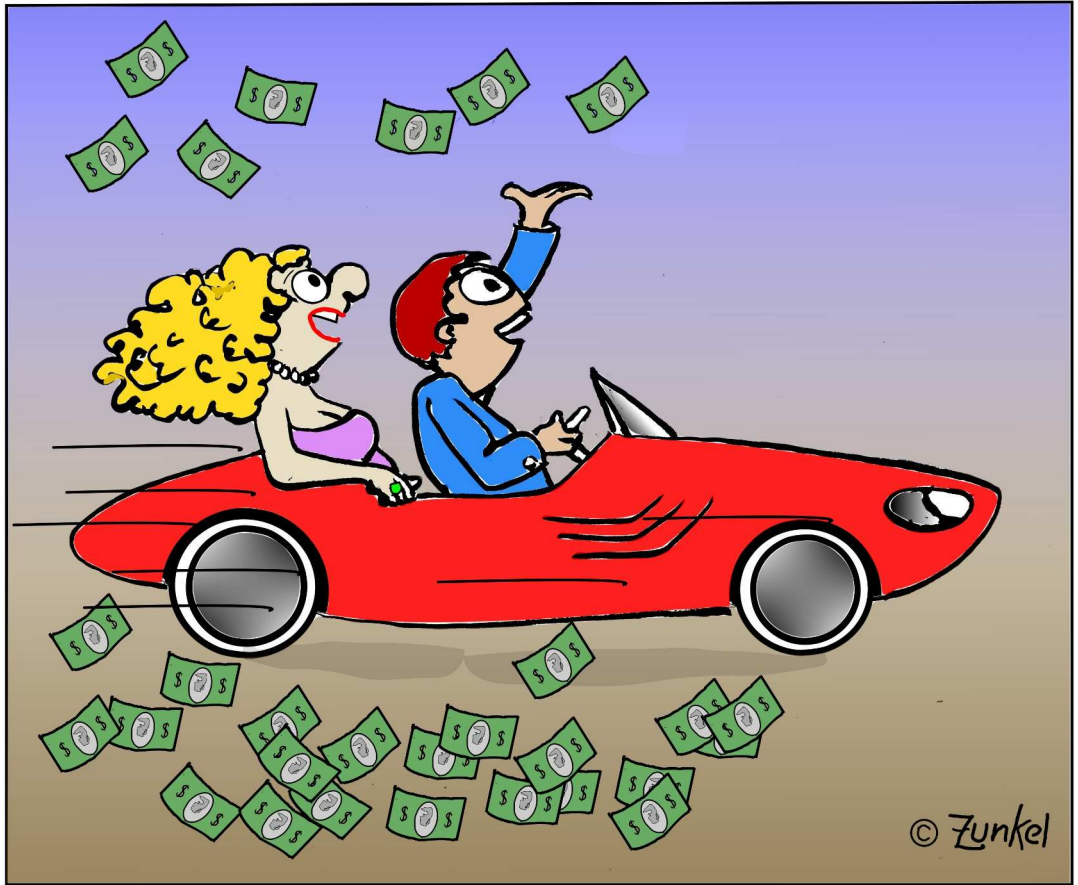
Plain Air



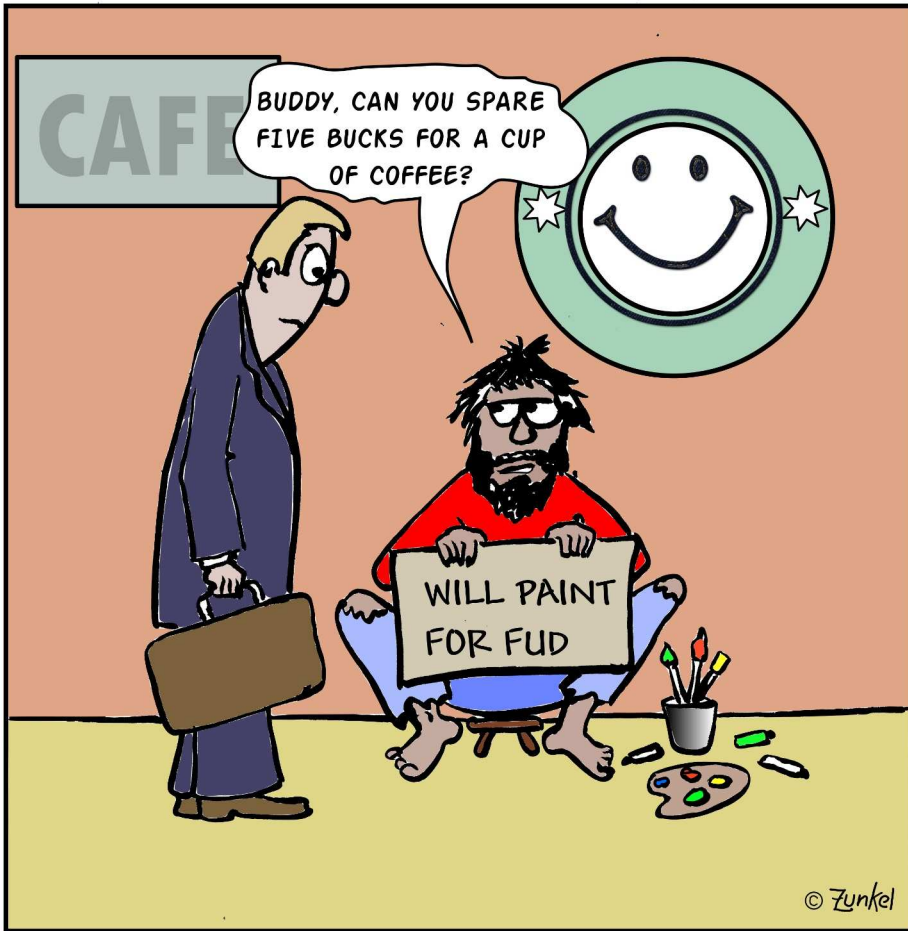
Juried shows provide unbiased evaluation of your work.

Plain Air





Being an artist can make you rich and famous...



...or not.

Plain Air



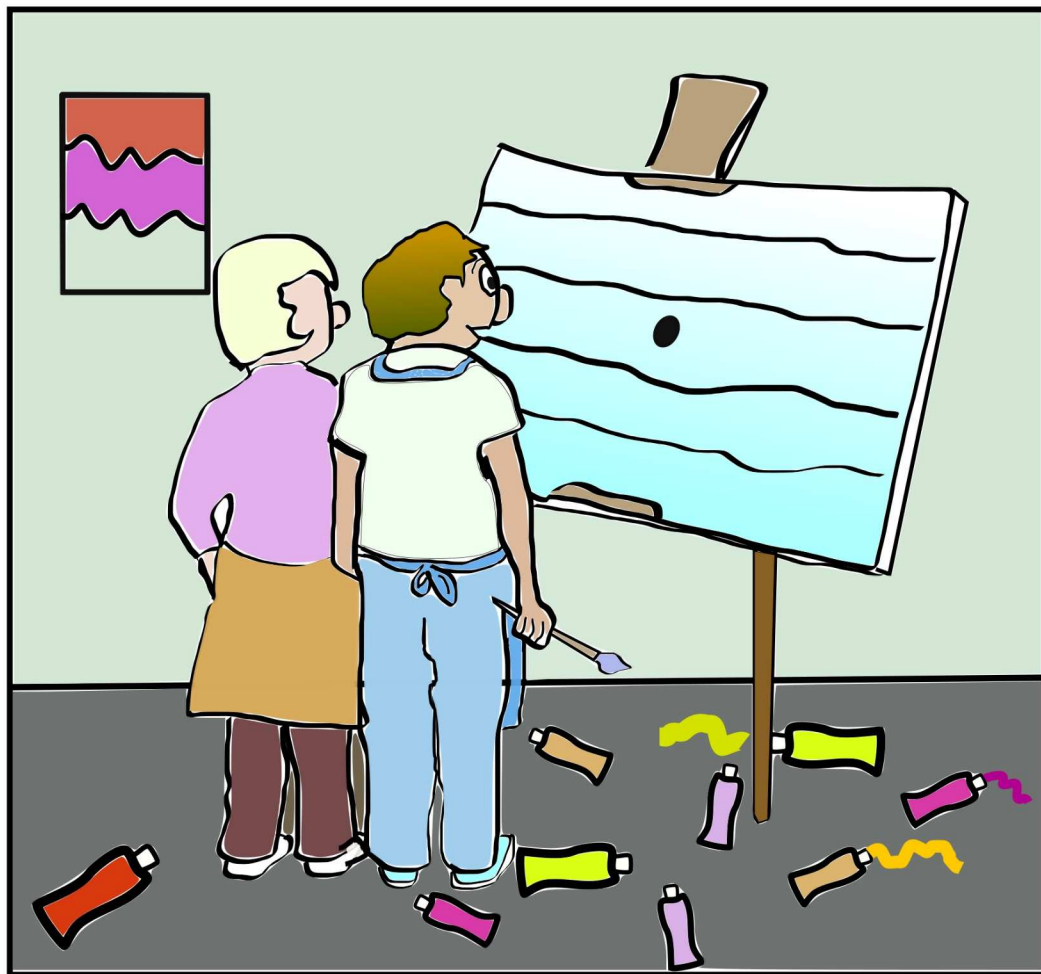
The hazards of painting plein air in Silicon Valley

Plain Air



"Mister you need to see a Horologist!"

Plain Air



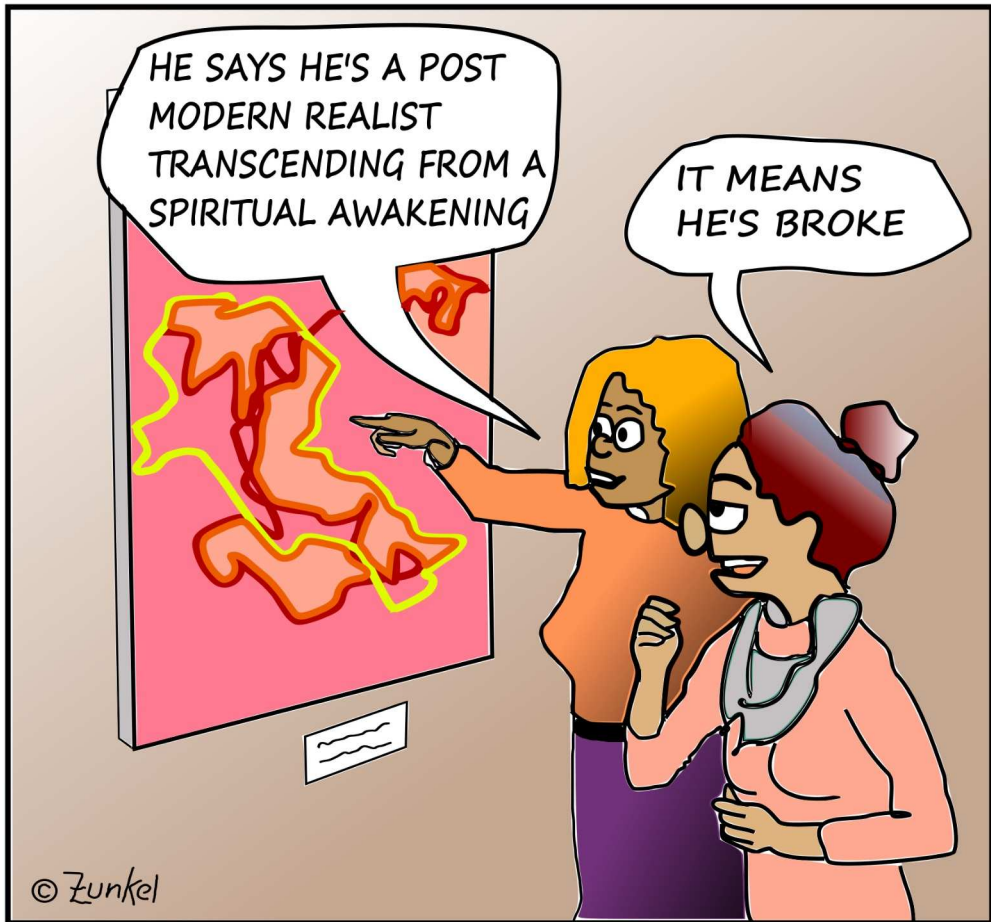
"I call it 'dot calm.'"

Plain Air



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

Plain Air



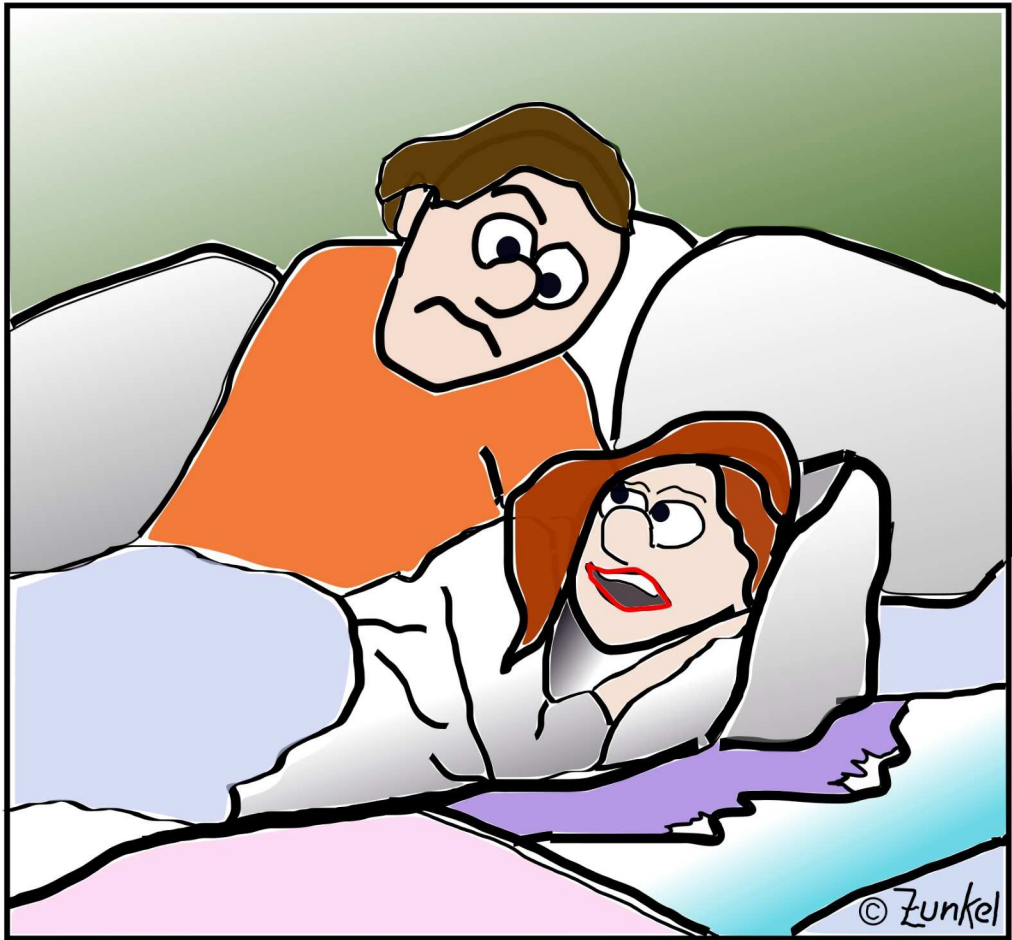
An Artist's statement explained...

Plain Air



"It was just my paint rag!"

Plain Air



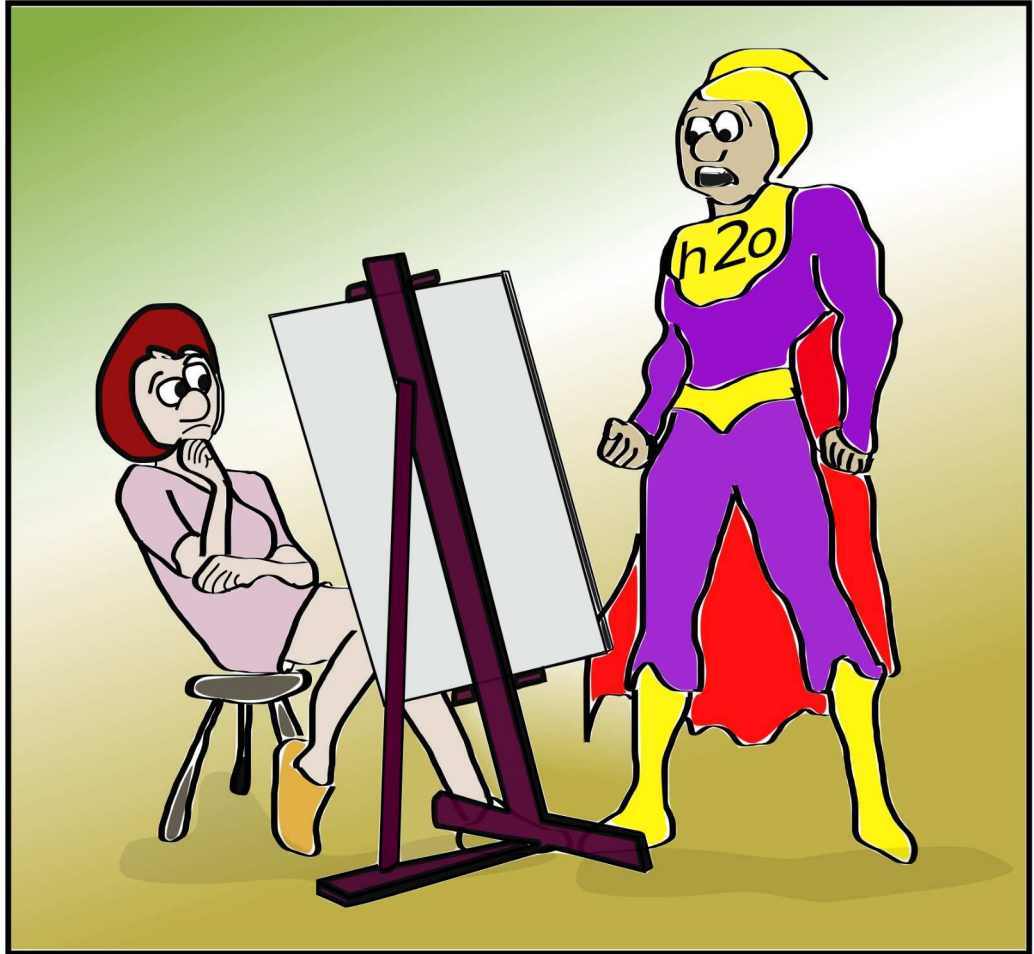
"Our workshop leader told us to sleep on it!"

Plain Air



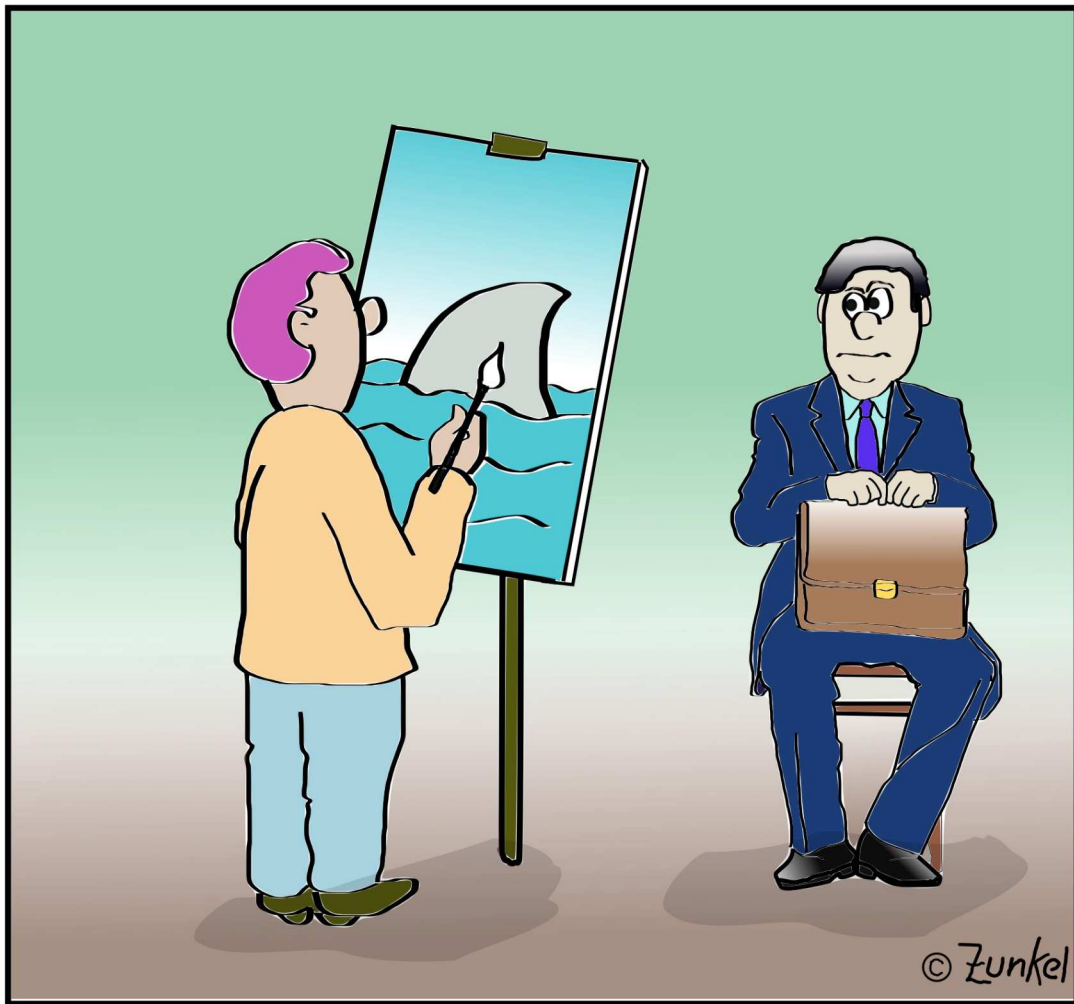
"What we have here is a failure to communicate!"

Plain Air



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

Plain Air



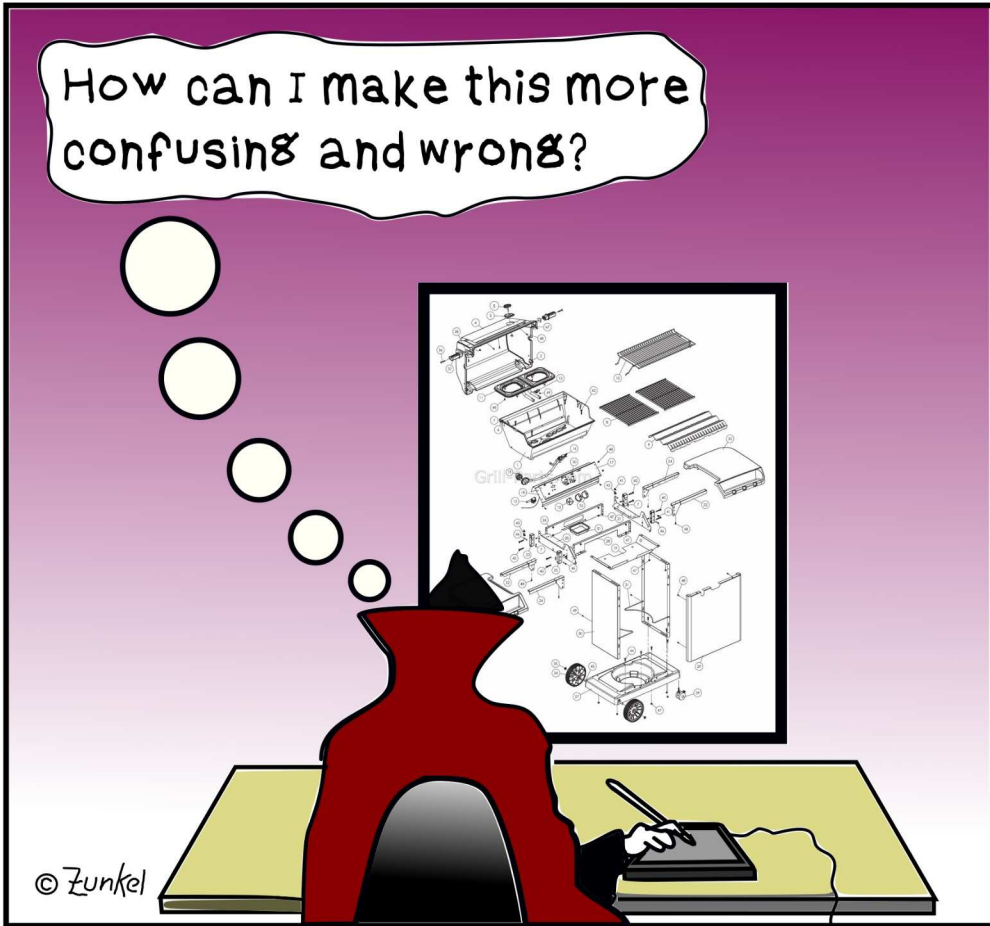
Plain Air



"I love looking at my art books. Maybe someday I'll read one!"

Plain Air

How can I make this more confusing and wrong?



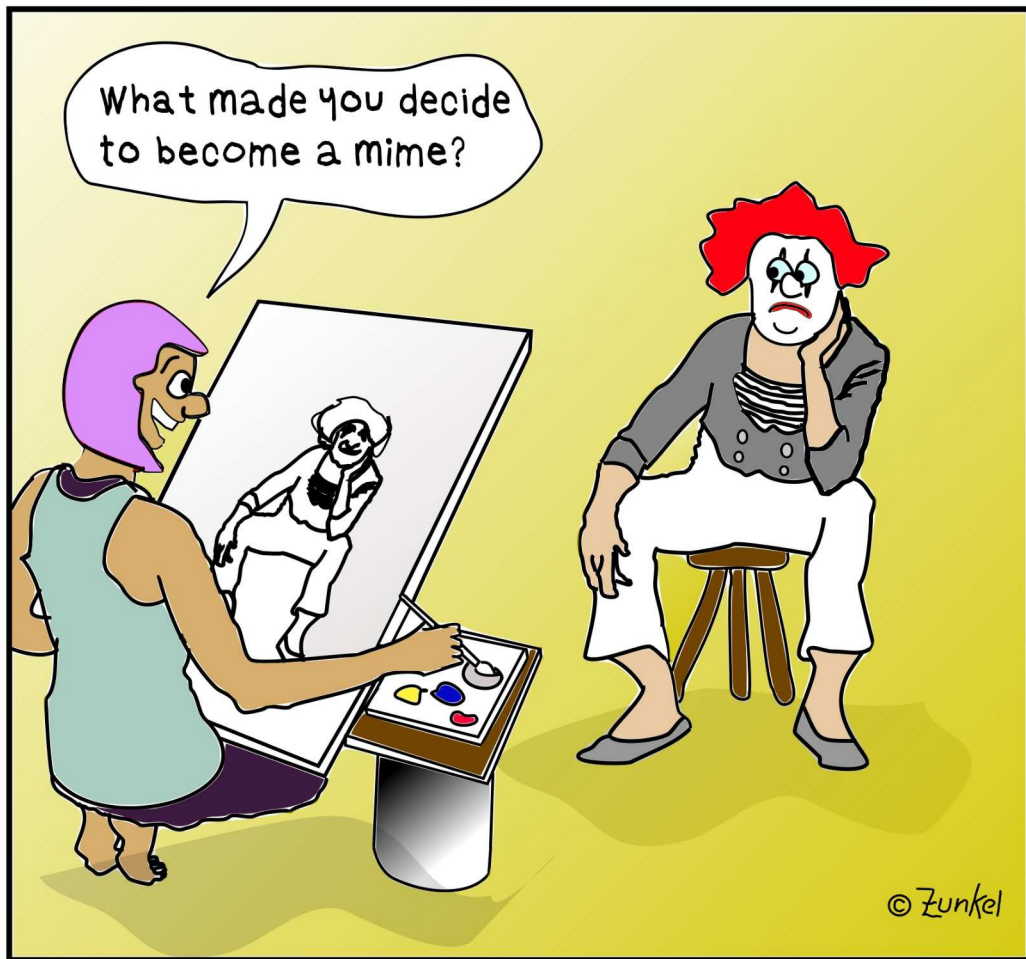
The evil tech illustrator at the grill company

Plain Air



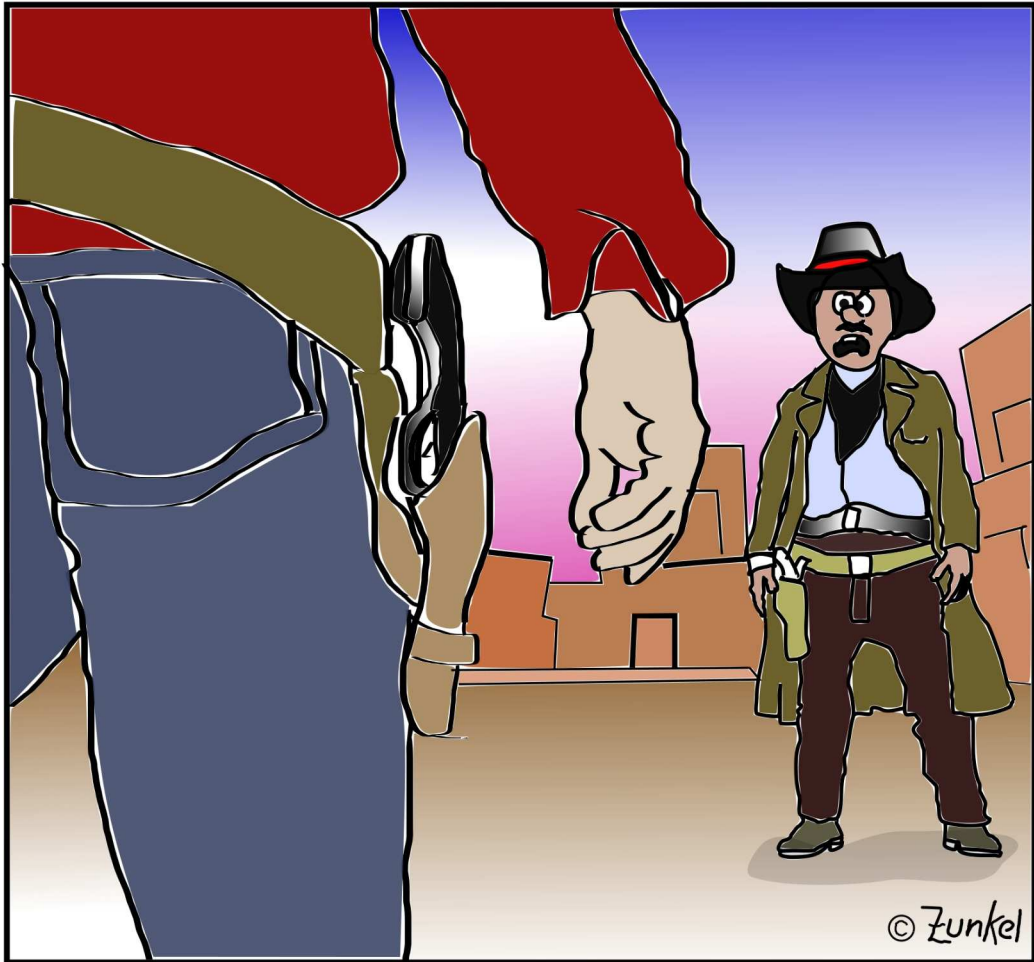
Everybody's a critic!

Plain Air



Doris wondered why the mime wouldn't reply.

Plain Air



"Did you wash your hands?"



I am happy to end this book with a drawing of The Art Fairy. At the end of the day painting, drawing, sculpting, or whatever, the artist falls into bed disgusted and discouraged with his or her work vowing to never make art again. During the night, The Art Fairy comes down from the sky and works on the project. In the morning, the artist wakes up, sees the work, and says, "Hey, that's not too bad!"



"Thank you! From the gang at Plain Air."

Biography

Richard (Dick) Zunkel was born and raised in downstate Illinois. He attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois and graduated with a BS degree in Machine Design Technology. with a minor in art. He continued his art studies at Wingate College, (now a university) in North Carolina, and the San Francisco Art Institute. He is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society and exhibits his paintings at Bay Area shows and sales. He has taught watercolor painting in a workshop environment.

Dick had a long career in the builders hardware, electronic security, and door automation industries and was awarded several patents. He retired in 2007 to realize his long held dream, to devote his time and energy as an artist. His interest in cartooning goes back to childhood. He was an avid reader of "Mad" magazine and fan of artist Don Martin. He has always been a compulsive "doodler" but only took up drawing cartoons seriously in November of 2015.

Dick and his wife Salinda make their home in Northern California's "Silicon Valley." They travel extensively and paint "plein air" at locations worldwide.

