

# Can You Hear Me Now?

## A Story of Art and Intuition

by John Vandebrooke

[www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/JohnVandebrook.html](http://www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/JohnVandebrook.html)

It has been six months now since I made the declaration that, Yes, I am an Artist!

I started out by making hundreds of small card sized paintings and then giving them all away. You might call it market research, as I was looking at the response and seeing how they were received. I was delighted that everyone really liked what I had done and gladly accepted the gifts. Of course, then I had to check out would they part with their funds just as delightfully so that started the next phase.

I got accepted into a local co-op gallery and I had to produce new paintings each month. Everyone seemed to like them, but they didn't sell, so I put my thinking cap on. I began to experiment on different surfaces and then I had the idea to transfer photos onto my work surface and then wax over those. Bingo. That was a hot key and many of those sold right away, which gave me a clue that those should stay in the portfolio.

I branched out and got into the local Art Walk and was accepted into some new locations, and I found a place where the abstracts were really appreciated. It was the local scrap-booking store. And the customers wanted to know how to make them for themselves so they could use them in their scrapbooks. So classes began and a whole new area opened up for me. I found I really loved teaching the classes and enjoyed the expressions on the faces of my students as they made something they liked.

This was all happening because I was just staying open to receive direction instead of deciding just how it should be. My wife and I had just downsized from a very large house into a townhouse just when I started all this art business. Of course now there was no large basement room or my shop to make a mess in, so it meant getting creative and moving one of the cars out of the garage so I had room to paint.

In our complex, there was a woman who asked me if I would like to come to her Rotary group and give a talk on Encaustic Painting. My standard reply to questions that start, "Would you like" is YES. This "just saying yes" business is good practice to getting involved. This has led to speaking at two Rotary groups and now I have seen the light and am going to go ask to speak instead of just being asked. At the last talk, several paintings were sold and a small class was talked about forming. Now I am thinking of fund raising ideas for them as well. It is like a silk thread I keep pulling and watching it all unfold.

My idea to create a [jewel case](#) to house a small painting and then print on CD's for a unique birthday package with a greeting to match the picture theme was produced. I needed a special printer to do that, but after I got it, enough of my CD's sold to pay for the printer. Then I wanted to use my own photographs so I got a digital camera and my first two overlays I did with the camera sold and paid for the camera. This confirmed I was on the right track.

Right now, I am looking at having to host two art shows this month and I will have enough art to fill both shows. I got one show from the Realtor that sold our house and another by following a hunch one day to see the director of a local playhouse. And wouldn't you know it -- she was just that day looking for someone to fill a spot.

That same day, I also followed a hunch to go ask an owner of a small shop if she would like to carry my art and she loved it and said yes. The same day, on the "hunch method", I went to my chiropractor and asked if he went to my show around the corner from his office. He said he had and liked one of my paintings. I had done two that were a set, so I went and got them from the gallery. He purchased both.

So, if you are also in this business of art and marketing yourself, perhaps this will give you a push to just go for it and follow out all those little niggles that creep into your creative brain. When they ask if, "Can You Hear Me Now?" Say YES.

Then go do it.