

Discovering Hidden Skill

Artistic Talent



When psychologist Lucy Petrie decided that she wanted to learn how to draw, she taught herself by using the exercises in a book entitled *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, then she enrolled in a pastel class.

Petrie won acclaim in the art world, within a short time, and her work appeared in the *Pastel Journal's* "Top 100 Paintings" issue, according to the *Vermont Burlington Free Press*.

Petrie says about her ability to paint "I don't believe in talent..."

"I felt I learned to see..." "From a psychologist's point of view, everything is driven by some unconscious motive."

Petrie comes from a family of artists: her mother was a middle school art teacher, her dad cartooned all the time, and both her sisters, and her husband are artists. Petrie creates her artwork by viewing photographs of images through a magnifying glass.

Lesson: A person's belief system can hinder the discovery of hidden abilities. Many experts would disagree with Petrie's opinion, but most would agree that she possesses a high degree of color discrimination and the ability to think in 3-D, which aptitude professionals refer to as structural visualization.

Reference

Buscher, S. (2007). Catching up with Lucy Petrie, pastel artist. *BurlingtonFree Press*.