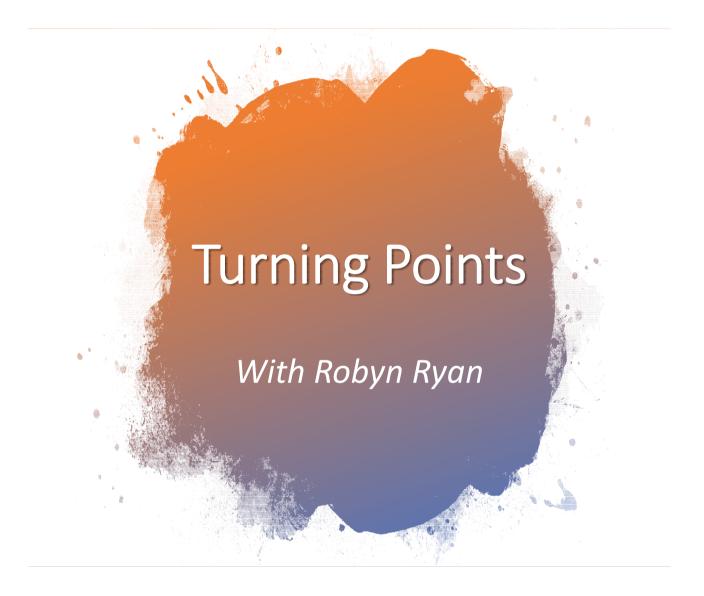
Journal & Workbook



"Every creative endeavor we have experienced from childhood forward has planted the seeds we are reaping the artistic harvest from today..." Robyn Ryan, Artist, VA



Turning Points Journal & Workbook



A Note From Robyn ~ Why Take This Journey?:

I hope you enjoyed the "Turning Points" Artist Talk!

As I progress through my own artistic adventures, I find it to be extremely helpful to pause and take stock of all that has contributed to getting me to this point; what I've tried, what I've created, what I've mastered, what I haven't mastered, as well as my underlying motivations.

In this Turning Points Journal & Workbook, I am sharing my approach for taking that inventory and then how to apply what is discovered to decide what to adjust in order to clarify the direction to go in next. Be sure to complete the worksheets provided in the original "Turning Points" Artist Talk Handout as they provide the starting framework for the activities in this workbook! (They are provided in the back of this workbook if you need them for your convenience!)

In addition to informing your decision-making process, reviewing all the seeds planted and harvests reaped along the way helps you to identify discrete items to describe and keep at your fingertips for talking about your artwork and creative journey future reference.

I don't know about you, but if I don't capture and organize information, I cannot access it... We've invested so much energy and time in our creative activities, it would be a shame to not remember and be able to put into practice all that we have learned!

If we apply the tools and toolbox metaphor, this exploration of the past also helps to identify the tools you have and may have forgotten about, there in your toolbox and at your disposal to apply in new and fresh ways. This renewed perspective on what you've learned, experienced, and accomplished better positions you to envision your next steps for the future and to step out in confidence.

That is why I am sharing this Turning Points Journal & Workbook with you. I want to give you a simple and clear way to review and take inventory of your own artistic journey. This will enable you to glean your own personal "pearls" that will:

- Reconnect and re-energize you with why you are drawn to create in the first place...
- Clearly identify & capture what you have learned and mastered for future access...
- Provide a method to guide you in deciding what to focus on now, next, and later on...
- Reclaim the joy and confidence in being a unique creative artist on your own creative path...
- and celebrate your artistic journey; past, present, and future!

I hope you enjoy this process...

and I wish you great success in all your artistic endeavors!





Turning Points Journal & Workbook Organization

The first section consists of the original worksheets from the Artist Talk Handout which capture the big picture of your own artistic journey and turning points. The next four sections are chronological. Within each section you will find Journaling Prompts, Exercise Activities, and Action Plan Activities. The final section pulls it all together to

- The Journaling Prompts are intended to encourage you to recall, explore, and capture information from your heart. There are no right or wrong answers, this simply helps you record your thoughts as you think through the prompts and questions.
- The Exercise Activities take you through purposeful tasks to reinforce clarity about your creative journey from multiple perspectives.
- The Action Plan Activities provide you tangible Take Away's that you can apply to your creative practices and re-energize your artistic focus.

Section 1 ~ My Own Turning Points (From Artist Talk Handout)

- My Own Artistic Journey Map
- My Own Turning Points

Section 2 ~ Reconnecting My Inner Child

- Journal Prompt: Creative Joy
- Exercise #1: Create My Memory Lane
- Exercise #2: Take Out the Garbage and Plant Something Beautiful
- Action Plan: Harvest the Joy

Section 3 ~ Mapping how I got HERE

- Journal Prompt: Weaving My Creative Tapestry
- Exercise #3: Give Thanks
- Exercise #4: Digging Deeper
- Action Plan: Harvest More Joy

Section 4 ~ Assessing "HERE & NOW"

- Journal Prompt: Look in the Mirror
- Exercise #5: Know Thyself
- Action Plan: Why Fight It?

Section 5 ~ Dreaming Forward

- Journal Prompt: If I Could Do Anything...
- Exercise #6: Creating Bucket Lists
- Action Plan: Pulling it All Together

Section 6 ~ What Now?

• Summarizing Your Action Plans

Turning Points Artist Talk Handout Worksheets

This first section contains the two worksheets included in the "Turning Points" Artist Talk Handout which provide your foundation and context for the other activities in this workbook.

The "My Own Artistic Journey Map" worksheet provides you with the big picture overview of your artistic journey to date. The "My Own Turning Points" worksheet helps you to think through each turning point to thoroughly understand and describe each turning point.

If you have completed them already, Great! You can proceed to Section 2 ~ Reconnecting My Inner Child. If you have not yet completed them, I've included them here for your convenience.

I recommend you complete these worksheets prior to beginning the Section 2 of the workbook activities to set the stage and warm you up for digging deeper based on the framework you establish in these worksheets!

I've summarized the instructions for the two worksheets here for you.

"My Own Artistic Journey Map" Worksheet

- Look back and identify your own creative / artistic shifts & turning points...
- What creative / artistic direction "intersections" and choices have you encountered?
- You can use this worksheet in a couple of ways:
 - 1) Fill out up front as you think through the "big rocks" of your creative / art journey to date.
 - 2) Refine after you go deeper into each turning point, you may discover others you want to include!

"My Own Turning Points" Worksheet

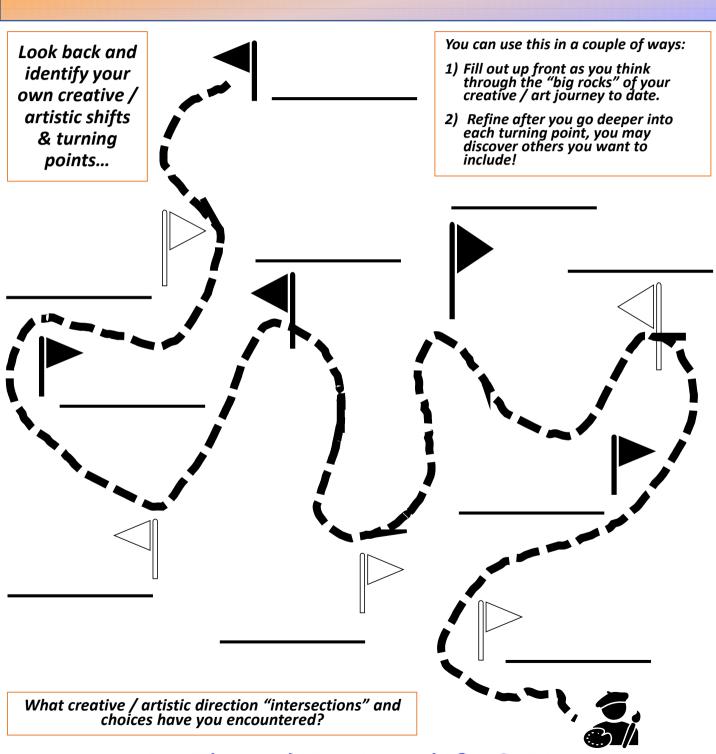
Characterize each significant "Shift" or "Turning Point"

- Name it (a key discovery, a series of artwork, etc.)
- Label what <u>Type</u> of Turning Point it is
- Identify what <u>motivated</u> you to pursue this new direction
- <u>Describe</u> what change you implemented
- Record any <u>discoveries</u> or "aha's" associated with the shift





Your Own Artistic Journey Map





Characterize each significant "Shift" or "Turning Point"

- Name it (a key discovery, a series of artwork, etc.)
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Turning Point #1:	Туре:
Motivation:	
Description:	
Aha's:	
Turning Point #2 :	Туре:
Motivation:	
Description:	
Aha's:	



Туре:	
Туре:	
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Turning Point #6:	Туре:
Motivation:	
Description:	
Aha's:	
Turning Point #7:	Туре:
Motivation:	
Description:	
Aha's:	
Turning Point #8:	Туре:
Motivation:	
Description:	
Aha's:	



Turning Point #9:	Туре:	
Motivation:		
Description:		
Aha's:		
Turning Point #10:	Туре:	
Motivation:		
Description:		
Aha's:		
Where Do You Want To Go Next?		
Туре:		
Motivation:		
Description:		

Reconnecting My Inner Child

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up." — Pablo Picasso

"The most sophisticated people I know - inside they are all children."

— Jim Henson

"The child is in me still and sometimes not so still." — Fred Rogers, The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember

"Everyone is born creative; everyone is given a box of crayons in kindergarten. Then wen you hit puberty they take the crayons away and replace them with dry, uninspiring books on algebra, history, etc. Being suddenly hit years later with the 'creative bug' is just a wee voice telling you, 'I'd like my crayons back, please." — Hugh MacLeod

"We nurture our creativity when we release our inner child. Let it run and roam free. It will take you on a brighter journey." — Serina Hartwell

Our inner child fosters our imagination, our desire to discover and explore, our willingness to try, and the reclaiming our hopes and dreams of what we want to create...

Do you ever consider the presence of your "inner child"? He or she is definitely there, and the less "mature" characteristics can emerge at the most inopportune times! That is NOT what I'm referring to! As we grow up, many of the positive aspects of our inner child can be stifled by what has been spoken over us or what societal norms have bound us by... the Don'ts, the Should's, the Must's...

I'm not advocating rampant immature or inappropriate behavior, instead, I am advocating reclaiming and re-invigorating those aspects of your inner child that fill your artistic endeavors with joy, freedom, and creative wonder!

In this section you will find the following activities to help you re-acquaint you with your inner child and begin rekindling the joy and wonder he or she brings into our creative experience.

- Journal Prompt: Creative Joy
- Exercise #1: Create My Memory Lane
- Exercise #2: Take Out the Garbage and Plant Something Beautiful
- Action Plan: Harvest the Joy





Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Journaling: Creative Joy

Journal Prompt: Consider these questions and write down your responses

- What creative activities did you engage in as a child?
- How did each make you feel?
- What was your favorite? Why?
- What did you dream about?
- What was most fun, brought you the most joy?
- What natural tendencies did you gravitate to?



Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Journaling: Creative Joy

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Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Journaling: Creative Joy

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Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Exercise #1: Create My Memory Lane

Based on your journaling sketch a childhood Creativity "Map"

- Draw a symbol or icon for each creative activity
- Draw a path between them all
- Doodle "landmarks" for the dreams and feelings along the way
- Record "sign-posts" for those actual places related to these creative memories
- Include any "travel-buddies" and "tour guides" that meant a lot to you
- Point is to have some fun capturing a visual representation of your inner child's Happy Memories! If this is not enough space, grab some paper from your studio and have some fun!

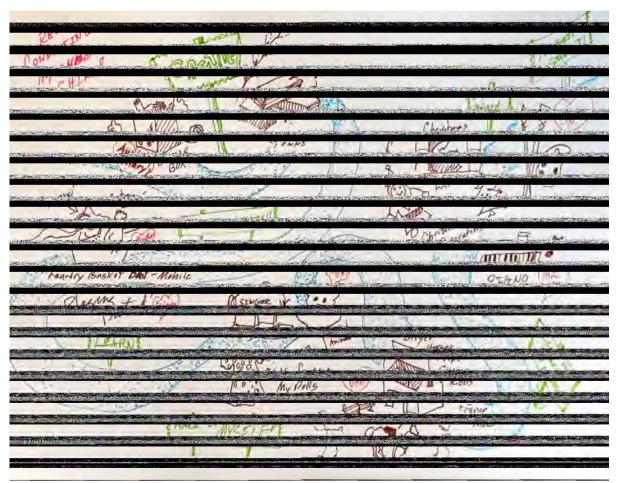


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EXAMPLE





Reconnecting My Inner Child

Exercise #2: Take out the Garbage and Plant Something Beautiful!

Identify Limiting Beliefs and Develop Affirmations to Overcome

- What were the "don't, can't, should, shouldn't, aren't" restrictions related to your creativity you believed as a child? How do these still show up today in your creative life?
- For each one write an affirmation clearly countering that negative and limiting belief.

Example	
Limiting Belie	f: I'll never learn to paint like that
How Showing	g Up Today? I'll never master that new technique
Affirmation:	I am a creative person creating from my heart and
	capable of learning and mastering anything I put
	my mind to!



Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Exercise #2: Take out the Garbage and Plant Something Beautiful!

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Reconnecting My Inner Child ~ Action Plan: Harvest the Joy!

Write down the ideas, activities, and attitudes you identified that rekindled joy, excitement, or interest as you explored reconnecting your inner child

- What might you use, adapt, and re-incorporate in your current artwork?
- What artistic "play dates" could you orchestrate to nurture your inner child?
 (Fun and exploration become the point, not the end product or perfection)

Mapping How I Got Here

- The Pilgrim's Progress...

"It is always hard to see the purpose in wilderness wanderings until after they are over. " — John Bunyan

"Our old experiences, memories and fears guide us down the present path. It's not so much that you are the artist; you are the conduit."

— Nick Bantock

"You can't get there by bus, only by hard work, risking, and by not quite knowing what you're doing. What you'll discover will be wonderful: yourself." — Alan Alda

As we mature in life and our art, countless people, experiences, motivations, and aspirations have shaped us and our outlook on how we live out each day as well as experience our creative journey.

Identifying your influences and affinities (what we gravitate towards, are good at) and characterizing your creative activities and underpinnings will provide you great insight into your artistic personality, motivations, inclinations and helps articulate the basis for the formation of your artistic identity; y our "hand"... your "voice"...

This section jumps off from the information you captured in the worksheets that were included with the "Turning Points" Artist Talk Handout. If you have not completed them, the "My Own Artistic Journey Map" and "My Own Artistic Turning Points" worksheets are included at the end of this workbook for your convenience.

In this section you will find the following activities to help you dig deeper into your personal artistic journey turning points and capture the "meat" of your journey so far. There is much to be celebrated as you reconnect with all you have experienced so far!

- Journal Prompt: Weaving My Creative Tapestry
- Exercise #3: Give Thanks
- Exercise #4: Digging Deeper Turning Point "Type" Maps
- Action Plan: Harvest More Joy





Mapping How I Got Here

~ Journaling: Weaving My Creative Tapestry

Journal Prompt: Consider these questions and write down your responses

- Based on the "Turning Points" Handout map/sheets, identify the threads that make up the tapestry of your artistic past.
- Who were the pivotal people? Instructors, Mentors, etc. What impact did each have on you and your art?
- What pivotal creative events, opportunities, activities left a lasting impression? What impact did each have?

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Mapping How I Got Here

~ Journaling: Weaving My Creative Tapestry

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Mapping How I Got Here ~ Exercise #3: Give Thanks

Write a thank you note (you don't have to send it but you can if you want to!) to one (or more if you want to!) of the pivotal people identified in your journaling.

- What is it about their influence on you that has stuck with you?
- How has it had a lasting impact on you and your artwork?
- The point is to ensure we cultivate gratitude for all that these people have invested into our development as artists!



Mapping How I Got Here ~ Exercise #3: Give Thanks

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Mapping How I Got Here ~ Exercise #4: Digging Deeper

Turning Point TYPE Maps

Fill out the following worksheets with your personal progression through each TYPE of Turning Point...

This exercise is intended to chronicle your journey to date from many different perspectives. You can learn a lot about yourself and your progression path... teasing out tools for your toolbox too!

Turning Point Types include:

- Subject
- Medium
- Technique
- Process / Approach
- New Inspiration / Idea
- Motivation
- Mindset

Examples:

Subject:

- Pets
- Horses
- Figures
- Landscapes
- Wildlife

Medium:

- Graphite
- Ink
- Watercolor
- Acrylics
- Mixed Media

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- Transparent
 - Opaque
 - Sculpting

Process:

Physical Layers

Motivation:

- Representational
- Draw / Paint like...
- Exhibit / Acceptance
- Sales
- Teach
- Self Expression

Subject:



Mapping How I Got Here ~ Exercise #4: Digging Deeper

Medium:	
Technique:	
reeningue.	
Dungana / Ammunushi	
Process / Approach:	



Mapping How I Got Here ~ Exercise #4: Digging Deeper

New Inspiration / Ideas:	
Motivation:	
Mindset:	



Mapping How I Got Here ~ Action Plan: Harvest More Joy

Write down at least one Turning Points for each Type that rekindled joy, excitement, or interest as you mapped out your Turning Points.

what might you use, adapt, and re-incorporate in your current artwork:

Assessing "HERE & NOW"

"Remember, the work of art lives in the experience, the journey within the process, not in the resulting monument to be presented in a certified art-place." — Eric Booth

"If you keep following your own footprints, you will end up where you began, but if you stretch yourself your artwork will flourish." — Donna Baspaly

"Allow yourself to enjoy the journey. Everything you draw or paint does not have to be a finished masterpiece." — Michele Cooper

Wasn't that interesting looking back and identifying the variety of building blocks and contributing factors to your creative self and the artwork you produce?

Now it is time to take your current artistic "vital signs" and really figure out what is "making you tick" creatively RIGHT NOW!

Here is a thought for you to consider... Artwork I personally relate to and enjoy viewing is NOT NECESSARILY representative of what I am best suited for and made to create myself! Don't misunderstand, wanting to paint/draw/sing/write... like so-and-so can be a great motivator to learn new skills! But when it turns out that I don't enjoy working that way, in that medium, etc. it may not be my ultimate artistic destiny!... The point is to loosen the grip on the "have to's" so you are free to become your unique artistic self with your own signature style and artistic voice.

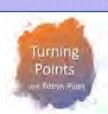
No question, all of us must master and continue to reinforce "the basics" of our craft. Here I am talking about you making room for yourself to follow and learn how others make their art as well as to take a new path of your own making when your creative voice prompts you! Creative Freedom is the point instead of imposed rules and set progression paths.

So, striking that balance between finding what you LOVE to do, are GOOD AT doing and are fulfilled by, while continually stretching and growing through learning new skills and approaches is the key!

In this section you will find the following activities to help you record your strengths and weaknesses, your likes and dislikes, your want's and don't want's so that you can embrace the artist you are now and set the stage for the artist you hope to become.

• Journal Prompt: Look in the Mirror

Exercise #5: Know ThyselfAction Plan: Why Fight It?





Assessing "HERE & NOW" ~ Journaling: Look in the Mirror

Describe your artistic "Current State"

- Use the "Turning Point" Types to help you thoroughly examine what you are creating now and why
 - Subject
 - Medium
 - Technique
 - Process / Approach
- New Inspiration / Idea
- Motivation
- Mindset
- If you have more than one major focus for your creativity, repeat for the other area(s).



Assessing "HERE & NOW" ~ Journaling: Look in the Mirror

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Assessing "HERE & NOW" " Exercise #5: Know Thyself!

The Love & Hate Filter

- Love List: list what you Like, Want/desire, Is Working, good at/comes easy for you.
- <u>Hate List</u>: List what you Don't Like, Don't Want/Desire, Is Not Working, not good at/is difficult for you.
- For each write down why...

Love:	Hate:



Assessing "HERE & NOW" ~ Exercise #5: Know Thyself!

Love:	Hate:



Assessing "HERE & NOW" ~ Action Plan: Why Fight It?

"Why Fight It?" refers to embracing and enhancing what you love and are good at doing and gifted with right now. "Fighting It" is useful only if it is FRUITFUL in growing you and your artistic skills! Sometimes, items that fall on the "hate" side of your "Love/Hate" list still have hope and potential in our creative futures...

- What based on your "inventory" from the "Know Thyself Love/Hate" exercise will you
 intentionally take forward and what you leave behind? Why?
- For those on the "Hate" list, are any of these areas worth resolving? Would additional training and practice bring it from the "Hate" side to the "Love" side? What would it take to move a "not working" or "difficult" item you still have interest in, to the love list?

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Assessing "HERE & NOW" ~ Action Plan: Why Fight It?

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Dreaming Forward

"There are roads out of the secret place within us which we must all move as we go to touch others." — Romare Bearden

"The trodden path of an Artist is paved by passion and commitment. It is a journey which eventually leads to the joy of bringing forth creativity in others."

— Patrice Donnelly

"The only thing we know about the future is that it will be different."

- Peter Drucker

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

— Eleanor Roosevelt

So far you've been asked to look back at your past and assess the present. You have recognized the myriad of experiences, lessons, accomplishments, and enablers who have fed the creative artist you are today! Now it is time to looking forward towards the future!

In this section you are being encouraged to DREAM!

A few years ago, I had allowed myself to get lost in all of life's cares and responsibilities along with what I call "should syndrome." I had forgotten how to dream, and I had locked my "inner child" in a cage! This resulted in performance-based art making instead of expressing what was in my heart and relishing the joy of the process of making art. Learning to dream again and releasing my "inner child" again has re-ignited my creativity and passion for my art!

So, lay aside your current circumstances, constraints, and your assumptions of what is and is not possible... Really allow yourself to go "there"... where your inner child and creative's heart would love to go! This is not about setting plans for the unobtainable; instead, it is all about accessing possibilities that really connect with your creative make-up. Dreaming like this may highlight areas you had previously dismissed or "locked away" that you actually can move towards and enrich your creative journey with.

Finally, you will take the first step in putting it all together to lay out a future roadmap or framework to guide the journey as you decide what is your "next", your "after that", and your someday.

You will find the following activities to help you re-ignite your ability to dream again.

- Journal Prompt: "If I Could Do Anything..."
- Exercise #6: "My Creative Bucket List..."
- Action Plan: "Pulling it All Together..."

***As a side note, we will not address goal-setting in this workbook but I will offer this if you find you like to set and work toward specific goals. I believe goals can be useful tools but are not an end in themselves, as they are a tool to move yourself forward and help to measure progress. I recommend using them to guide your way forward while remaining open to course adjustments (and goal refinements) as seasons, interests, abilities, resources, and desires change and evolve. This protects against a "pass/fail" mentality which can be counter-productive to your creative spirit!





Dreaming Forward ~ Journaling: If I Could Do Anything...

Remove all constraints (real or imagined) and brainstorm what you have always wanted to do, see, and try related to creativity and art! Really!



Dreaming Forward ~ Journaling: If I Could Do Anything...

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Dreaming Forward ~ Exercise #6: Creative Bucket Lists

Based on your "Dreaming Forward" Journaling, create three "Creative Bucket Lists" based on those newly discovered or reclaimed dreams:

- <u>Near-Term</u>... What could you take tangible steps toward NOW to lay foundation for and move toward a dream?
- <u>Mid-Term</u>... What could you start planning for in the "not too distant future" to take tangible steps toward?
- <u>Someday</u>... What dreams excites you enough to keep on your "Vision Board" as a guiding star as you move forward?

Near-Term:	Mid-Term:	Long-Term:



Dreaming Forward ~ Action Plan: Pulling It All Together!

Small steps made consistently equals PROGRESS!

In addition to your newly reclaimed dreams and what you've now gleaned from looking deeply at your creative past, present, and future bucket lists; what specific actions and goals can you focus on <u>now</u>? What would you focus on <u>next</u> after that? What will you hang onto as something you would want to focus on <u>someday</u>?

NOW	NEXT	SOMEDAY

What Now?

"They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself
." — Andy Warhol

"If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." — Lewis Carroll

"Even if you fall on your face you're still moving forward." - Victor Kiam

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

— Søren Kierkegaard

"What Now" can be taken a couple of ways can't it...

There is the OVERWHELMED "What Now?" where you find it really is hard to figure out where to go or what to do next and you become filled with frustration and even discouragement...

Then there is the HOPEFUL, EXPECTANT, EAGER, and EXCITED "What Now?" where you are invigorated with the possibilities ahead of you and the challenge becomes choosing your "next" from among the many promising options you have identified...

Well, after going through all these activities, I hope you find yourself in the SECOND category of the hopeful, expectant, eager, and excited after taking inventory of:

- Where you have been
- All you have learned and what is already in your creative "toolbox"
- How much you have grown creatively
- Who has been instrumental in guiding you and cheering you on
- What motivates you and lights your creative fire
- What you are good at, what you want to work on, and what you can let go of...

You are now armed with information and knowledge which form a foundation from which you can make your "NEXT" choices and decisions.

I would suggest you revisit this process occasionally to incorporate new inputs and adjust your path as it fits each season... not set in stone just like we are not set in stone

If you find yourself in the FIRST category of the overwhelmed, take heart and a DEEP BREATH! I would offer you this... This creative journey of ours is not a race or competition, there is no right or wrong path. Should you choose a "next" that doesn't turn out as you hoped or expected, glean whatever lesson(s) or tool(s) you can pull from it and choose your NEXT creative adventure path to march down full of hope, expectation, and enthusiasm!

My hope is that this "Turning Points" experience has equipped you to move forward in your own creative adventures with confidence, anticipation, and joy as you relish the journey! It has been my pleasure to be your guide! Warmest Regards,





What Now? Summarizing Your Action Plans...

Summarize your responses here from the Action Plan Activities in the previous sections. You can refer to this summary periodically to remind yourself of the next steps you identified to bring forward with you in your artistic pursuits.

- The next direction(s) your Turning Points Assessment suggest
- Staying connected to your inner child and reincorporating play and curiosity
- Reinforcing the artistic voice and hand you have developed through your turning points
- Fostering your strengths and identifying specific areas you want to grow in
- Infusing joy and reigniting dreams that have been muffled over time

Next Direction Suggested by My Turning Point Journey:

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What Now? Summarizing Your Action Plans...

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What Now? Summarizing Your Action Plans...

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- 1	Next Steps Towards my Dreams:
	Next Steps Towards my Dreams:



The Turning Points Art Journey



Your Guide:

Robyn Ryan is a painter, sculptor, and art instructor working from her studio in beautiful Fauquier County, Virginia. She focuses on celebrating life and sharing joy through her creations. Horses, wildlife, and nature are her most frequent subjects.

Ryan's paintings explore both representational as well as less-objective abstractions employing a range of water-based and mixed media. Her refined and realistic bronze sculptures focus on celebrating the energy and "presence" of her equine subjects captured in candid moments.

Ryan's artwork is characterized by her use of color, texture, and physical dimensionality. She is drawn to the tactile aspects of her media; the flow of the pigment and water, the building of physical textures, and creating three dimensional pieces. Her focus is on conveying the idea, impression, feeling or "essence" the subject represents to her vs. description alone.

She is an enthusiastic and encouraging instructor who seeks to instill confidence and equip her students with the knowledge, tools, and techniques to achieve their artistic goals.

You can find more information on Robyn, her art, her teaching and other offerings on her website and social media:

Website: https://RobynRyanArt.com

Facebook: https://facebook/Ballyryan.Studios

Instagram: https://Instagram.com/Robyn_Ryan_Art

You can contact Robyn by email at Robyn@RobynRyanArt.com

Interested in Art Classes / Consultations with Robyn?

Live In-Person, Live Online, and Online Courses are being prepared, planned and scheduled. See what classes are in store and sign up for the waiting list for advance notification and early-bird registration.

https://mailchi.mp/robynryanart/classes-more-info



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