Robert Burridge

Robert Burridge, a noted international award-winning Industrial Designer who, after twenty-five years in the corporate world, has focused his life to painting everyday. He is a celebrated, contemporary painter, contributing author to artists’ magazines, college teacher and publisher of his own books, *Loosen Up Workbook & Studio Notes* and *Hot Art Marketing*. His instructional DVDs feature his popular “Loosen Up” techniques. Burridge attributes his success to his education from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, his stint as an adjunct professor at Cooper Union School for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City, and in 1966, his Fluxus art performances with Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik, Jim McWilliams and Charlotte Moorman.

He is much sought after as juror, speaker and workshop instructor. Also, Burridge is a featured artist-mentor for Master Workshops in France, Italy, Mexico, Bahamas, Guatemala and Cuba. Robert is the Honorary President of the International Society of Acrylic Painters and Signature Member of both the ISAP and the Philadelphia Water Color Society. He is a recipient of their highest and most prestigious award, the Crest Medal for Achievement in the Arts. Previous recipients include Georgia O’Keeffe, Andrew Wyeth and Pablo Picasso.

Burridge was commissioned to create twelve large abstract canvas paintings for the Hollywood movie *Dean Quixote* by Victor Simpkins, *Dean Quixote* paintings for the Hollywood movie *Dean Quixote*, a feature film produced by Miles Levene. His *Coffee Cup* painting series were reproduced by Starbucks Coffee Company on thousands of cups as well as framed art prints. Williams-Sonoma stores carried his popular fruit and vegetable prints. His commercial successes now include eight paintings woven into large tapestries selling at national design centers.

Being a typical Gemini, Burridge’s painting themes can be put into two categories: His Good Life series emphasizes color, humor and good times. The other theme is his continued focus on contemporary Abstract Icons, Mythology and Metaphors. Currently, his popular work hangs in the permanent collections of international embassies, corporate galleries, art colleges as well as television and entertainment personalities. The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art curated fourteen of his abstract paintings for his first solo museum exhibition, which led to his second major exhibition of seven feet abstract charcoal drawings. The Overhof Museum also invited and exhibited Burridge’s personal collection of his seminal paintings from past years.

Robert Burridge’s Workshop Notes

**Twenty Top Secrets for Loosening Up**

1. **Always be Ready**
   - Pick a spot to be your studio. Whether it’s your garage or a kitchen corner, call it “your studio.” Keep your art supplies out and ready to go. When inspiration hits you, you are ready to leap in. No excuses for not being able to find your stuff.

2. **Art Materials All Out**
   - Before you begin, prepare your “palette” with cups of paint, premixed, along with several large buckets of water.

3. **Clear the Creative Space**
   - Clear away and prepare your studio painting space by eliminating anything near you that does not serve you.

4. **Ambient Sounds**
   - Paint in silence, put on lots of music on your iPod or use something like Pandora… it’s your choice.

5. **Your Time**
   - Focus only on your creativity. This is your voice. Do not paint for those who don’t.

6. **Goals**
   - Before painting, do a short writing exercise on your thoughts. Decide what you want to achieve; your expectations for the painting and what you want your painting to express. Your head is now cleared from “mind chatter.”

7. **Physical Preparation**
   - Wear loose or oversized clothing. If it pinches you, take it off. Take off your shoes… and turn off the phone. Lock the door. Hang a “do not disturb the artist” sign.

8. **Start Extremely Loose**
   - Pick a jarring color scheme… a combination you would never do.

9. **Think Big**
   - Use larger paper or canvases than you normally use.

10. **Back Away**
    - Keep your paper at arm’s length. If you can… stand up and paint on flat tables.

11. **No Tiny Brush—Ever!**
    - Use larger and longer brushes. Extend the handles with twigs and tape.

12. **Water Everywhere**
    - Work wetter… use several one gallon buckets of water around you!

13. **Big Picture First**
    - Think bolder… and bigger! Have courage to paint dangerously fast during the first few minutes.

14. **Be Sporadic**
    - Work for a shorter time… maybe 15-minute spurts; take a break, work on several other pieces and go back again… and again.

15. **A Sense of Urgency**
    - Work faster… don’t slow down. Crank up your music.

16. **Stop at 90%**
    - Don’t paint a finished painting. Be courageous to stop too soon.

17. **Paint Lots More**
    - There are no mistakes… only more opportunities. Remember, you paint to teach yourself to paint.

18. **Un-Bore It**
    - When your work bores you… creatively turn left and keep going.

19. **Look at It**
    - Look at your painting under a mat from time to time.

20. **Oh No!**
    - As always, paint as if this one was your last gig.