

The Card That Got Away

Recently I created some artwork for a group round-robin type project. When I sent my first piece of artwork out to the group, I found myself almost apologizing for what I had created – even though I actually enjoyed the process and was pleased with what I wound up with. Why did I do this?

I have thought about it and I think there are two reasons. First, I knew there were some talented folks in this group and sometimes a little self-doubt sneaks in and you wonder if your art will be “*up to snuff*.” The other reason is that sometimes what you visualize is not what you wind up creating. This can be a good thing because it means the creation process is dynamic and more interesting.

Sometimes you get an idea and expect that it will work, but when you sit down (or stand!) at your craft table, you realize that it won't work. Maybe your measurements are wrong. Maybe the materials you have are not right for what you are doing or you don't have the right tools, skills or directions. Or maybe it works fine but it just looks – ok – not right – something missing – off.

So you play around with it, dig through your craft drawers or go browsing local store shelves for inspiration. You simplify your project or you add something more. Hopefully in the end you wind up with something you like. But like the “*big fish that got away*”, you may still have “*the card that got away*” in the back of your mind!

So what is the moral of the story? I don't know other than maybe that it is ok to look at your work with a critical eye (so that your work will improve) and that if you do like the result, claim it. Accept it for what it is and not for what it isn't! Focus on the art you have created and keep the “*card that got away*” in your idea bank for another day!

