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2024 Community Creative Event Descriptions

These events are designed to offer low pressure opportunities for people already at an event or visiting a venue to contribute to a collaborative creative project. Because they're not workshops, no registration is required; anyone can participate. It takes just a few minutes for people to provide their creative input, but I've found most people want to hang around to chat about writing, painting, and art, enhancing their visit to the host venue. People also often ask to be contacted when the poem or painting is available to view/read, giving the host another opportunity for customer/client contact.

Community Poem

How it works: This is an interactive experience ala the Exquisite Corpse writing technique, where people provide a line/sentence/response to a prompt without necessarily knowing what others are contributing. These responses are compiled to form a unique community poem.

For an in person event, participants simply write their responses on index cards, which are displayed during the event to allow everyone to watch the poem grow with each contribution. (I've done this by stringing clothesline or having people tape cards to a wall.) I suggest people include their name on the back of the card so they can be listed in the credits, but people are free to contribute anonymously.) When the event is over, I'll take the cards with me and arrange them into a document which includes the names of those who contributed and wish to be listed in the credits. This poem gets published on the Exquisite Collaboration Poem Project blog and is also available for the host to use however they want. This can also be adapted as an online activity.

Community Painting

How it works: I set up a table with an appropriate sized canvas (like 10x10 or 8 x10) as well as acrylic paints mixed with flowing medium in squeeze bottles or cups; tools to move the paint (Popsicle sticks, brushes, straws, etc); and everything else necessary for people to experiment with putting paint onto the canvas. As people add their contribution, patterns and images begin to appear. When the painting is dry, it reveals something no one had planned.

I'll bring the painting back to my studio to dry, do any finishing it might need, and return it to the host, who can use it however they'd like.