

When you draw, you are literally drawing things toward you with intention, drawing aspirations, dreams and hope into tangible form.



tended to become an artist, certainly not an art teacher. However, after reaching for that very first box of Rembrandt pastel crayons, I was hooked on drawing. Four months after my long-awaited child, Mirai, was born, in January 1998 I was hanging sixteen framed paintings and pastels for my first exhibition, at a restaurant in Aoyama, an area of Tokyo I loved for its creativity and elegance. If I, a journalist, could draw from instinct rather than art education, starting at the age of 36, certainly anyone could.



How did the Genesis Art Workshops get started?

In 2000, I was having tea with my friend, the award-winning illustrator Andrew Boerger, who was also a writer. We were both in the early days of crossing over into different mediums. Andy and I were excited to share a realization. Since creativity is simply a flow of energy expressed through us, why not focus on getting others to experience the energy in unfamiliar mediums?

We conceived of a series of in-cafe creativity gatherings, calling them “Genesis Workshops.” At our first venue in the atelier-like backroom of artist Traci Consoli’s inspirational Pink Cow Restaurant, our 25 home-made laminated cards with art on one side and creative writing exercises on the back were strung on a clothesline. These pieces of art were gradually reworked into the Genesis Cards.