

DAY 18 | Motif: Lamp

TITLE | "Deaf Gain"

MEDIA | Canson Cold Press, Watercolor, Micro Pen

SIZE | 8 x 10

By Kim Anderson

#FEBCHALLENGE19

Can you imagine the world today without the light bulb? Thanks to a notable Deaf inventor, Thomas Edison, the world gained/benefited greatly from his invention of the practical incandescent electric light bulb. This is known as Deaf Gain. As a Deaf inventor, he helped generate an era of rapid progress for civilization. Many people do not realize that this brilliant Deaf innovator also invented the motion picture camera. He wanted to create a device that would "do for the eye what the phonograph does for the ear." Throughout his life, he patented 1,093 inventions, the last one at age 83! He became Deaf at an early age. The actual cause of Edison becoming Deaf is a bit sketchy. Legend has it that the effects of a fever and a blow to his head by an angry rail conductor had caused him to become completely deaf in his left ear, and 80% deaf in the other ear. Edison believed being Deaf was a gain, as it kept conversations short so that he could have more time for work – more time for him to focus on inventing a way to light up the world! He is now a historical role model for Deaf kids to admire and follow him in the field of engineering and science. The incandescent electric light bulb is a Deaf invention. The moths are symbolic in their attraction to light, which is the same for the Deaf. The vibrant moths represent the Deaf community taking the lead in showcasing and educating the world the contributions Deaf people make to society and the importance of Deaf people's existence for human biodiversity.