

# ARTELLA ANTHOLOGIES



Artist  
Profiles

ASSEMBLED



## About The Artella Daily Muse

In the Fall of 2008, Artella launched The Artella Daily Muse, the only daily creativity newspaper in the universe, as an alternative to the traditional "daily news". The Daily Muse is broadcast from a Members-Only Web site and provides the latest news, trends, how-to's, activities, and free resources every single day. It is tailored specifically for creative people who love to learn and be inspired by the beauty, colors, and imaginative resources of the world.

In the early 1900s, Henry Louis Mencken said, "A newspaper is a device for making the crazy crazier." Well, if "crazy" can mean being crazy about art, writing, daily beauty, creativity, making a difference in the world, and living life to the fullest - then that's exactly what we're trying to do.

We hope this series, presented in its fun new artistic layout, continues to provide you much enjoyment and inspiration.

This booklet presents a collection of some of our best "In the Studio" Artist Profile interviews. This column presents a new interview with a different artist every day, to give you an inside look at each artist's work, process, inspirations, and life. We've covered a vast representation of media and skill levels- from collage artists to photographers, from professional artists to hobbyists. It's been an honor to profile each of these fine artists, and we hope you enjoy their interviews as much as we have.

*Marney K. Makridakis*

Artella Daily Muse Editor-in-Chief

Published by Artella  
[www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com](http://www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com)

These features were originally published in The Artella Daily Muse, and may also have appeared in other sources.

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<http://www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/share.html>

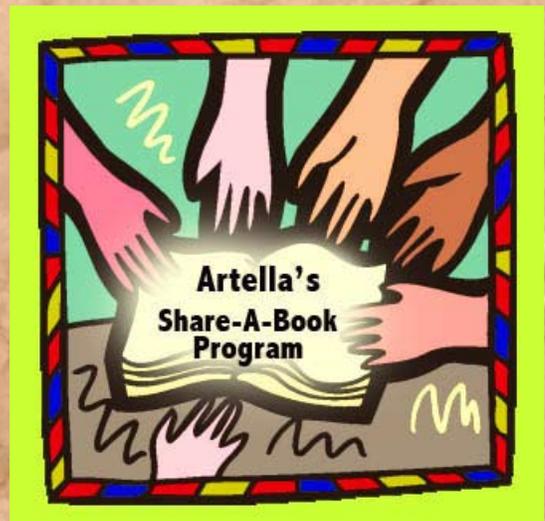
(you can also see the back page of this eBook for Share-A-Book Program details)

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For more information about The Artella Daily Muse and Artella's Membership Program, visit [www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/members.html](http://www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com/members.html)



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the waltz of words, art, & spirit  
[www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com](http://www.ArtellaWordsAndArt.com)



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# Jill Badonsky

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Jill: My art is spontaneous, child-like, whimsical, often defiant, sometimes filled with secret meaning but always uninhibited. I paint to entertain myself and let the inner chaos channel into a choreographed symphony on the page.

DM: And the other example?

Jill: The other example of a favorite piece is a collage of my whimsy watercolor houses (some of which you see pictured here) and acrylic paint and with textures and found objects. But I don't have that to show you because I haven't done it yet. It's in my mind's eye ready to be translated into reality and I just know it will be a favorite.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Jill: I have a room with a great view of surrounding mountains that has bookshelves and dressers filled with supplies. I have cards that inspire me on the walls from friends who also inspire me and art I've done that I like so I can remind myself that I do things I like. I also have empowering messages that remind me of thoughts I can think when I need to refocus my thinking from my small self to my higher self. One of favorites says BELIEVE. I have a big round wooden table that I do my art on but I also take supplies all over the house to create things because I like variation. The studio is a mess but has artistic license to be so. I think the need for a studio to be neat is a way of procrastinating. Art can be done in a closet if one has the passion to do it.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Jill: A black ink pen.. one that smears with water. I can entertain myself for hours with doodling, contour drawings, gesture drawings, writing, doing outlines for watercolor washes with a good ink pen that creates shadows and interesting effects when you wet it a bit.

DM: What are your favorite movies?

Jill: My favorite movies are defiant, clever, well made movies that inspire me as does music and exposure to artists. I like anything with intelligent humor. Harold and Maude, American Beauty, Shakespeare in Love.



DM: Who is your favorite artist?

Jill: My favorite artist is Laurie Anderson.

DM: Who are your favorite people?

Jill: My favorite people are Ellen DeGeneres, Robin Williams, Terry Gross.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Jill: I admire people who are a combination of kind, benevolent, encouraging, positive, disciplined generous, witty and prolific genius, qualities rarely all found in one person but I believe Marney has them all.

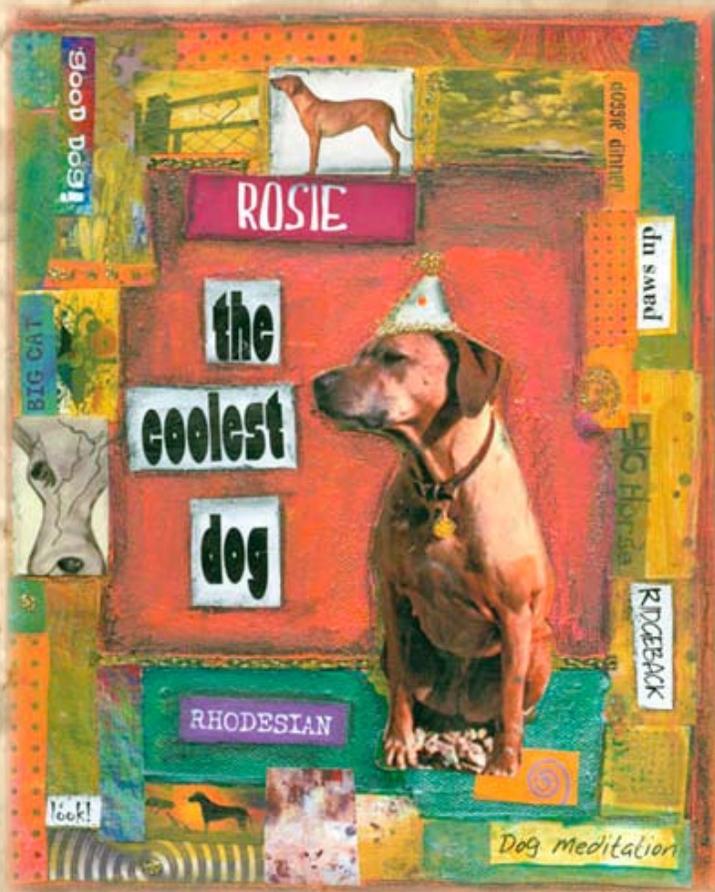
Jill Badonsky, M.Ed. is a multimedia artist, writer, inspirational humorist, creativity coach and yoga instructor. She founded and directs The Muse is IN, a company dedicated to facilitating creativity for joy, prosperity and the occasional miracle through workshops, publications, training, and creativity coaching. She trains creativity coaches with a dynamic model she designed called Kaizen-Muse Creativity Coaching. She is author of The Nine Modern Day Muses (and a Bodyguard): 10 Guides to Creative Inspiration for Artist, Poets, Lovers and Other Mortals Wanting to Live a Dazzling Existence and the upcoming book: The Muses Awemanac: A Guide to Riding the Creative Force to Word, Art and the Brilliance in Life.

Visit her website at: [www.themuseisin.com](http://www.themuseisin.com)



Lady Dancer





Rosie Collage

JILL  
BADONSKY



Collage Composition





**Still Life Blind Contour**



# Lori Barker

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Lori: Ever-changing.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Lori: My favorite is a piece of copper I found that I engraved, added patinas and attached to just the right piece of driftwood. My favorites are always ones that all the components show up and speak to each other.

DM: What does your space where you create look like?

Lori: What, just one space in the house? No, I have the computer loft, the sewing room, the official studio space (12 x 16 room with wall to wall cabinets, shelves and counters and a great view), the gallery on the lower level and I'm allowed into my husband's woodworking space from time to time.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Lori: Right now, metal and my paragraver. Tomorrow, whatever is uncovered in the studio.





DM: What is your favorite music?

Lori: Music that I can dance to when no one's around.

DM: What are your favorite books?

Any children's picture book that is made special by reading it to a grandchild.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Lori: My husband. For 40 years he has never questioned my need to collect junk, collage materials and supplies. He understands that art is the greatest part of me and when I'm not creating, I'm not whole.

Lori Barker is a mixed media artist whose work can be found on her Web site, [www.spiritcollage.com](http://www.spiritcollage.com), and in The Shoppes of Artella, [www.artellawordsandart.com/LoriBarker.html](http://www.artellawordsandart.com/LoriBarker.html). In her Artist's Statement, she says, "My work is an imitation of my life, an ongoing collage of experiments and spiritual mysteries. As a Reiki, Shamballa and therapeutic touch practitioner, I find the desire to explore the other side of matter and to express what the artist sees there. Much of my art is formed by dreams and executed by intuition. Angel photography dominates my mixed media engravings on metal but other techniques and images filter in when I least expect them.

Photography, paint and unusual materials comprise the structure of my art. I've developed my style by working with a multitude of materials and techniques throughout the years. Using the right side of my brain, as an artist for 35 years, I speak to the left on fewer occasions now. Pictures form my logic, numbers become elements for collages and philosophical thoughts turn into the colors of my palette."



LORI  
BARKER



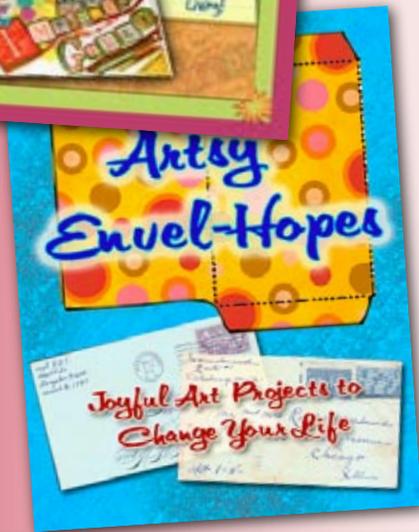
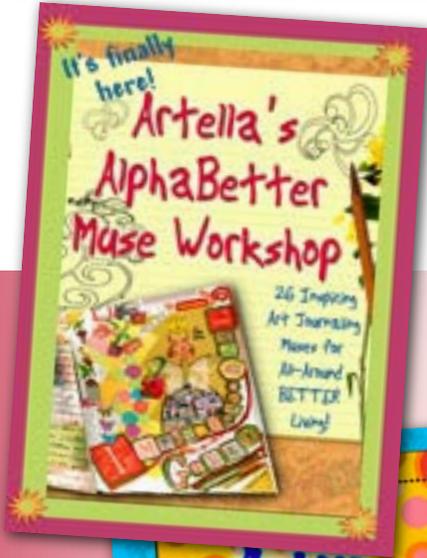
# All Links are Live! Click to Explore!

## Inspiration for Better Living: Artsy Envel-Hopes & AlphaBetter Muse Workshop

Two new inspirations to change your life...meet the [AlphaBetter Muses](#) and open your [Artsy Envel-Hopes](#)!

[AlphaBetter Muses](#) offer new inspiration from the hands and mind of Artella's own founding flowerchild, Marney Makridakis, presents a friendly family of Muses who are ready to lead you through an unforgettable journey of self-discovery, inner healing, sacred inspiration, creative fun, and all-around BETTER living!

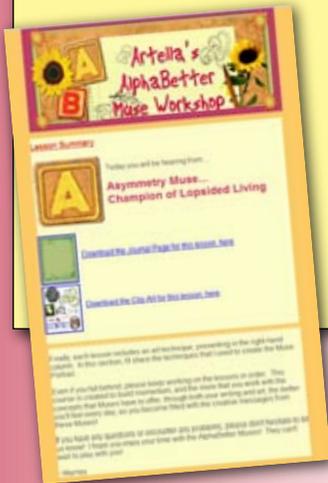
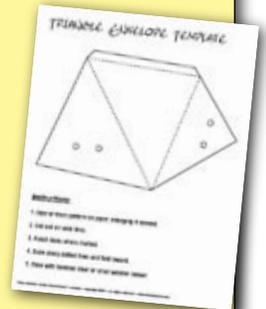
[Artsy Envel-Hopes™](#) turns hope and gratitude into an artful adventure! Over the course of 30 days, you get 30 template designs to create fantastically artistic envelopes, as well as daily "Artsignments™" which guide you in creative ways that you can place your prayers, hopes, and blessings inside.



Click on the images to find out more !

"I have been thrilled to discover so many different ways to make envelopes and of all the dreams, thoughts, memories and more that could be stuffed into them. My only disappointment is that the 30 days are over."

- Mary Ellen



"I absolutely LOVE the [Alphabetter Muse course](#). I've received the first lesson and it has energized me already! I always wanted to start an art journal but never really knew where to begin. Thanks!!"

- Pam Tucker

If the idea of having a simple, doable art project to play with every day makes you smile...

If you enjoy working with your hands through fun, easy-to-complete art projects...

And no matter what your dreams are, your soul is sure to be stirred by these inspiring activities and the energy that they bring with them...

Then [Artsy Envel-Hopes](#) and the [AlphaBetter Muse Workshop](#) are for you!

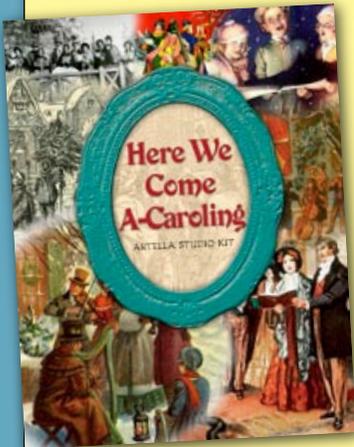
**All Links are Live! Click to Explore!**



# Artella's Studio Collage Kits

These gorgeous downloadable [Collage Art Kits](#) are truly an all-in-one, project-ready art studio. They are full of one-of-a-kind elements, but since they are downloadable, you can use them over and over. Plus, everything is coordinating and organized by theme, so you truly have everything you need in one place to create endless projects.

*Click on the images to find out more !*

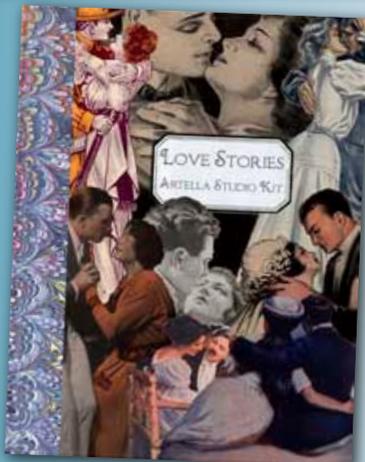
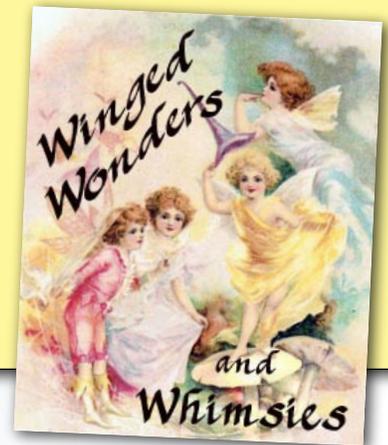


"I just finished unzipping and opening version 1 of this amazing kit. I am bowled over at your generosity in giving this away! Just for that I will subscribe to the e zine. This was fun to open and look at all the beautiful art. I see now firsthand the quality ( A1!) of your kits, etc. Loved the music too. Have a restful holiday season, and thankyou, thankyou, thankyou!!!!"

*- Barbara Leahey*

"I love the Winged Wonders Kit. It is simply exquisite, a little jewel of a masterpiece, another one, I should add!"

*- Gena Lumbroso*



There are so many [Collage Kits](#) to choose from - those shown here are a mere sampling of all that Artella offers - over [25 kits](#) to choose from!

# Anne Marie Bennett

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Anne Marie: My art is SoulCollage! In SoulCollage, we create our own deck of collaged cards. Each card represents an inner voice, or a member of our community, an animal totem, a spirit guide or an archetype.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Anne Marie: My favorite SoulCollage card is called "Worthy." It is the part of me who says I am the one who is worthy of a big, wide, gorgeous, beautiful life. I am the one who deserves to have it all! I am the one who dances through life and knows that the secret of life is believing that I am worthy of great love and joy and pleasure.

DM: What does the space where you create look like?

Anne Marie: My studio is my youngest stepdaughter's previous bedroom! My husband painted it for me when I was recovering from my breast cancer treatments 4 years ago. Three walls are a beautiful shade of jewel-tone teal, and the fourth wall is soft aqua. My writing desk and filing cabinet are near the window, there's an altar and some shelves on another wall. Two walls contain all of my art/collage supplies, and two long table spaces on which to create to my heart's content!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Anne Marie: My art journal and colored pencils.

DM: What are your favorite books?

Anne Marie: I'm not sure you have room to print all of these!!! It's hard to be selective, so I will just go with where I am in this moment and list my favorites right now:

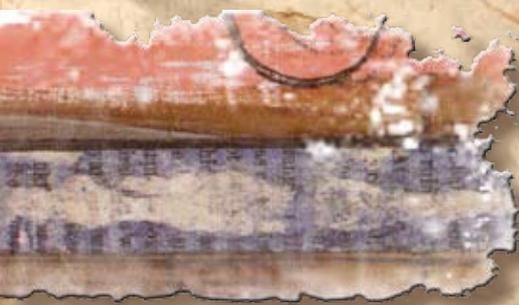
I love anything by Elizabeth Berg! Also: Return of the Goddess- A Divine Comedy, by Elizabeth Cunningham..... Dancing Naked at the Edge of Dawn, by Kris Radish.... anything by Geneen Roth..... Secret Life of Bees, by Sue Monk Kidd..... Radical Acceptance, by Tara Brach.... Learning to Fall, by Phillip Simmons..... SoulCollage, by Seena Frost..... Answered Prayers, by Julia Cameron... When I Loved Myself Enough, by Kim McMillen..... Refuse to Choose, by Barbara Sher... Plan B, by Anne Lamott.... Storycatcher, by Christina Baldwin

DM: And your favorite movies?

Anne Marie: Little Miss Sunshine, My Cousin Vinny, Shawshank Redemption, Big, The Blue Butterfly, Calendar Girls, Lovely & Amazing, Michael, Shrek, Love Actually, Chicago

DM: What about music?

Anne Marie: I listen to John Denver, Neil Diamond, Deuter (Sea & Silence, Sun Spirit), Celtic Woman, Enya, Vivaldi, Dean Evenson, Marina Raye (Liquid Silk), Constance Demby (Novus Magnificat, Sanctum Sanctorum), Thaddeus (Spiritual Sun), Adiemus, Anonymous 4, India Arie, Vonda Shepard, Katharine McPhee, Sarah Brightman, Angelique Kidjo, Loreena McKennitt, Kenny Loggins, Art Garfunkel, Van Morrison, Josh Groban, Barry Manilow, Chris Daughtry, Il Divo, and James Taylor Jim Croce.



Power

DM: Do you have favorite artists?

Anne Marie: These are my current favorites Melissa Harris, Pattie Mosca, Georgia O'Keefe and Sara Steele.

DM: Do you watch TV?

Anne Marie: Yes, I like Joan of Arcadia and Judging Amy

DM: Any other favorites you want to share?

Anne Marie: I'm in to Broadway Musicals. My favorites are CATS, Into the Woods, Ragtime, Aida, Honk!, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Wicked and The Full Monty.

DM : Whom do you most admire?

Anne Marie: I admire all of my SoulCollage Sisters because we are in the challenging yet rewarding process of inward journeying through the light and the dark, and expressing that journey outwardly to each other.

I admire my husband Jeff who has truly taught me what it means to draw goodness to me by radiating that quality outward to others.

I admire Barbara Hall, who created the TV show Joan of Arcadia, and isn't afraid of following her intuition and manifesting her creativity in the world.

I admire myself (last but not least) because at long last I can put myself on this list and not worry what other people are going to think of me! I got through 9 months of treatments for breast cancer, and I allowed that time to change me inside and out. I have done courageous inner work in therapy and with SoulCollage. I am following my intuition more and more each day. I see myself now as bright and beautiful. I am following the path that was meant for me and I am grateful every day.

When Anne Marie Bennett discovered SoulCollage©, she felt like she was in heaven! For her, it is the perfect weaving of spirit, art, and self-expression.

She took her first workshop with Creativity Coach and SoulCollage Facilitator Noelle Remington in Portland Oregon while attending the Art and Soul Retreat in February of 2005. She trained directly with Seena Frost, the creator of SoulCollage, in September of that same year, and has led many workshops before and since.

Visit Anne Marie's website at <http://www.kaleidosoul.com/about.html> to sign up for her free newsletter and see her schedule of upcoming workshops at <http://www.kaleidosoul.com/soulcollage-workshops.html>.



ANNE  
MARIE  
BENNETT



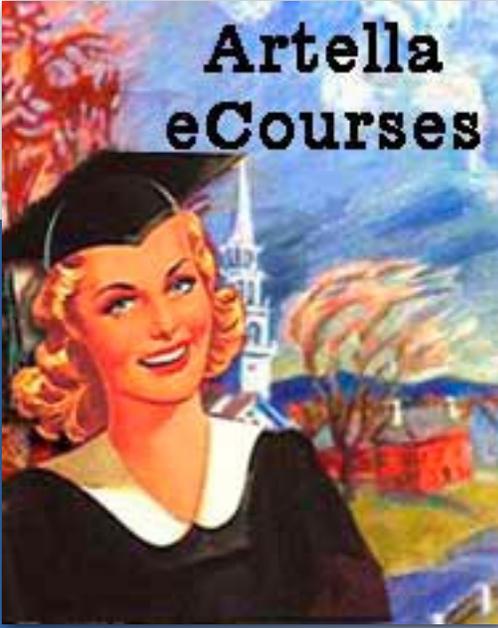
Enough



Worthy

# All Links are Live! Click to Explore!

## Artella eCourses



# eCourses to Enrich Your Creative Spirit

Take an inspiring e-course in your own time, go at your own pace, and you can even wear your bunny slippers! Each Artella workshop or e-course is designed to enrich your creative spirit, make positive changes in your life, and even share your special gifts with an audience of your own.

Click on each book image to find out more !

"I love this workshop-it is so nice to get into conversations with my visiting muses at the end of the day. Pure Joy!"

- Sally Visotski

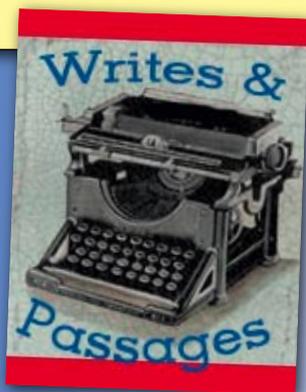
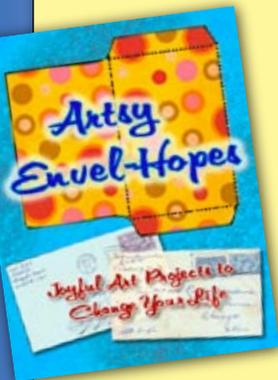


"This class made me monumentally happy! Since it's only just finished, I can't say anything about the lasting effects, but I suspect there will be many.... I've been looking for new ways to practice gratitude and I love these creative ideas."

- soren mason temple

"I appreciate this hands on method of focusing on all the intangibles that are so very much more worthy of the meaning of abundance than all the materialistic stuff that one can lose oneself in! It's fantastic!"

- Patricia Shook

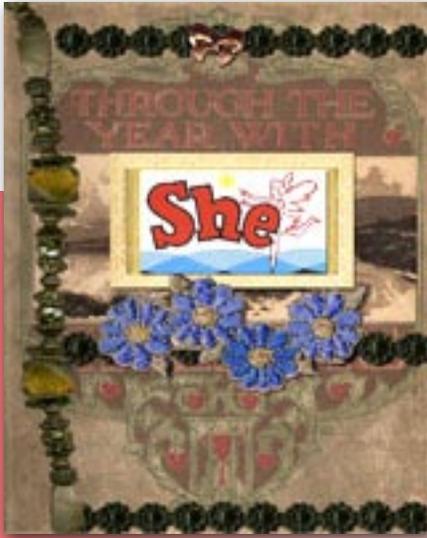


There are many eCourses to choose from - those listed here are a mere sampling of what is offered!

For questions about any of our eCourse offerings, feel free to write [marney@artellalands.com](mailto:marney@artellalands.com)

# All Links are Live! Click to Explore!

## Digital Altered Books - the Brand New Art Genre!



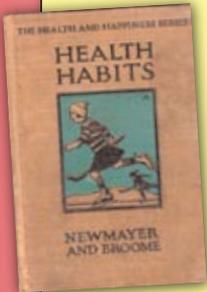
Digital Altered Books™ are the latest phenomenon to hit the creative world - here's your chance to try the brand new art genre that merges the fascinating process of altering beautiful vintage books with the creative ease of digital imaging technology.

Simply select a vintage book from our library, and you receive 10 high-resolution, excellent-quality scans of pages from a vintage book, including the front cover, back cover, and 8 inner pages that have been chosen specifically for their interesting and creative altering potential.

Then, choose any and as many Digital Ephemera Packs as you like! Perhaps you have some gifts or projects in mind and you would like to use images of authentic buttons, charms, and jewelry parts. Or maybe you'd rather work with vintage photos of children, labels, and the eclectic pieces in the "Grandma's Drawer" Pack! With over 25 packs already available and new packs constantly being released, you'll have great selection of authentic images.

Also included at no extra charge with every Digital Vintage Book™, is your complimentary coupon for Artella's digital altered book conversion service, where we turn your book pages into an interactive digital altered book that you can share with your friend, family, the entire Artella community or anyone else you choose!

*Click on the images to find out more about the books and embellishment packs!*

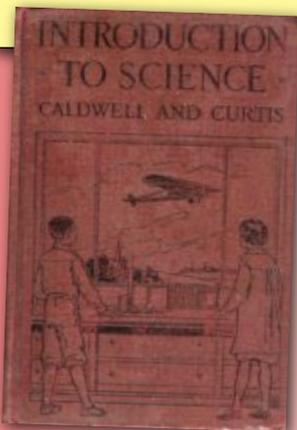


"I would never have imagined that making Altered Books or even just looking at them could be so addictive. I would recommend that everyone try at least one just for the pure fun of it."

*- Julie Burger*

"After being introduced to digital altered books, life hasn't been the same since! It brings together all one's artistic skills, and also provides narrative potential. Creating a digital book has been an invigorating and rewarding project. Thanks, Artella, and everyone for all your fine efforts."

*- Barb Starrenburg*



See a [digital altered book in action, here!](#)

See our ever-growing [Gallery of Digital Altered Books, here!](#)

NEW! You can now download a free video of an online workshop called "Digital Altered Books Revealed", presented by Marney Makridakis, to introduce you to the intriguing art of Digital Altered Books™! [Click here to go to the video.](#)

# Bill Charlebois

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Bill: Right now I'd say whimsical.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Bill: I created a zine about gypsies for a swap last year. I found a picture of a flamenco dancer and tried altering it digitally to try to illustrate real dance movement. It's actually a digital collage, because I used cutouts from about 10 different pictures to construct the final piece. Barbara Burtchett, a writer of gypsy descent, said I captured the soul of the gypsy with both my zine and picture. I thought that was the ultimate compliment!

DM: What does your space where you create look like?

Bill: It looks like a real disaster. Our house is small, so our bedroom serves as my studio. I seem to have lots of piles of stuff I don't know where to put. That's one reason I love the computer so much. I can create art without it taking up much room.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Bill: Years ago, this wouldn't have qualified as an art supply, but now for me, I couldn't live without it - Photoshop.

DM: What are your favorite books or movies?

Bill: I love anything "Star Trek," books, movies, whatever. One of my favorite movies, though, was "Sense and Sensibility." The subtle humor in it was great! I love British humor.



זענאן זאגן,  
"מאן וויל זען זיך און  
ליקען און מוסיק זאקע."



DM: What is your favorite music?

My favorite music comes from "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Miserables." Of course, there's Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken and Katherine McPhee. Hmm. Maybe they should do "American Idol in Outer Space."

DM: Who is your favorite artist?

My favorite artist is Vincent Van Gogh. I love the vivid colors he used. I saw his paintings way back in the sixth grade in the 60's at the Detroit Institute of Arts. I also love Egyptian art.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Bill: This one will sound like a paid advertisement. I greatly admire our very own Marney. She not only didn't let her own personal issues keep her down, but she constantly encourages the rest of us through her bottomless enthusiasm for life and art. Artella, the waltz of art, words and spirit, made me realize it's okay to be who I am.

Bill is a computer tech for Ann Arbor Public Schools in Michigan. He would rather spend his days being at home creating digital art and writing. He self-published a fantasy novel titled Dragon Vapors, and has had articles published in Victorian Country and Country Homes Country Gardens magazines. His artwork has been published in zines such as Artella, The Gleaner Zine, Material Zine and Art & Life.





BILL  
CHARLEBOIS



examples of "zetti" art

# Lea Cioci

DM: How would you describe your art?

Lea Cioci: A metaphor for the expression of colors, texture, and subliminal meanings.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Lea: It is full and sort of messy yet semi-organized. My huge workbench has tools on it and under and around (in Iris carts, shelves, and drawers) so I can move around and gather most of what I need when creating without moving far from the bench.

Behind me I do have stickers and collage images separated in folders in plastic tubs. Paints, and other media is on shelving and drawers around the perimeter of the room and a paper rack with various types of papers.

In addition, I have another room (each room is small 10x10) that has my library of books and magazines and bigger items such as my Genesis cutter, die cutter machine, etc...I use this room as a research and find room, and sort of part-production room. One day I hope to be able to have the space to put both rooms together.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Lea: This is a hard question. I would say my Primary Elements which are mica based powders by Luminarte'. The colors are so vibrant and rich lending themselves to many creative art works in a multitude of ways. I would collect them just to look at the colors!!

DM: What are your favorite books?



Paperweight



untitled



Lea: My favorite all time book series is by Mary Stewart. They are about the Legend of King Arthur, Merlin, and Camelot.

DM: Your favorite music?

Lea: I love so many different types of music, but I love the song "Shimmer" by Fuel.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Lea: Oh gee, I admire so many people that inspire me or motivate me to be a better person. One person I do admire is Ram Dass. It is hard to put into words the beauty of understanding self and the world and the "dance" as he calls it and how we all interact.

I have to say that I greatly admire Marney! She is like the sun shining bright with a rainbow of colors surrounding her. Her wit, wisdom, and art has given me the courage to dream, believe and be me. Thanks Marney!

Lea Cioci CPD CPT is a freelance designer and serves as a demo artist, instructor, and design consultant to several companies in the hobby industry. Lea's work can be seen in many paper arts magazines, C&T publication books, and Design Original books. Lea is also a Ranger Ink Educator. Lea's journey led her to the creation of stamp images to give the artist the freedom to create a very personal self-expression. See Lea's work at <http://www.picturetrail.com/leac> and see her new stamp collection at [www.amstamps.com](http://www.amstamps.com)



Soul Search Collage

# Mary Kay Colling

DM: How would you describe your art?

Mary Kay: My art is storytelling with graphical symbols rather than words.

DM: I know you have some new work, would you mind telling me about it?

Mary Kay: There couldn't be a better time to show and tell about my art work. I have brand new examples, completed in August, of both my working styles. I'm in talking mode because all four new endeavors needed written explanation. Together, they are the perfect points of hreference to use for talking about what I do, how, and why.

DM: Great! Tell us all about these new works.

Mary Kay: The whimsical, Everywoman style of Evedom© graphics illustrates ideas, ideals, values, attitudes and opinions, hopefully at a universal level. The textural, non-representational style suggests them. Both styles are equally adequate for telling any multi-layered story all at one time, with humor and in the nicest way possible. The economy of using imagery instead of paragraphs never ceases to amuse me and I think my results are amusing, too - pretty, interesting, but funny nonetheless. Which style I choose depends on what I want from the audience. I hope it's obvious that I always want a chuckle. (That's all the encouragement I need.)

Colleen, subject of the new Evedom© painting project, is based on a real person I met over the summer who has the most incredible hair I have ever seen. It impressed me so deeply that I had to talk about it. Whenever I look at the line art or sample paintings, I talk to myself about that hair all over again. The purpose for publishing Colleen is to engage an audience of one at a time in a conversation that opens with the magnificent hair and continues through the rest of the design elements. The job I wanted the art to do required that I draw the hair. I amused myself for an entire afternoon placing the hair strand by strand. Painting the hair was great fun for me. I made a project of it because I thought painting the hair and flowers would be great fun for the rest of the world, too. That it lends itself so well to being the model for both a natural media and a digital painting lesson made it a perfect candidate for publishing in the Evedom© digital delivery collection.

The princess cut and color projects came about in a similar way. The blonde was for a little girl named Sami to work on with her visiting grandmother and aunt. It was a success. The three of them colored and cut every day for a week. Again, it seemed like a good idea to publish it in the Evedom© digital delivery library for other little girls who have grandmothers to entertain. The African-American princess is the offshoot of an Evedom□ pseudo-portrait I made for an intern at political headquarters where I volunteer. After making the light-haired princess set, it was only natural to re-use the Shawnequa drawings in the same way.

About Beezy (her maiden name was Bernadette Zicari), the subject of the redecorated foot stool, Rough Time/Splendid Moments, the story is my opinion of her character through filters of time, space, life in general. She died five years ago at a very early age from breast cancer. The practical problem was to create a statement about an individual woman and at the same time present a universal meaning to capture the hearts and wallets of an audience of two hundred or so people who never knew her. I wrote the brief, but by no means complete, explanation of theme, metaphor and execution for their benefit, to suggest the ways the art applies to all of them, no matter what their individual connections with the Breast Cancer Coalition.

I hope you will go to the [evedom.com](http://evedom.com) and [mkcolling.com](http://mkcolling.com) to see the art in the new Evedom© projects and Rough Time Splendid Moments. I'm proud of all four of them; over the moon about one.



DM: What approach do you taken when starting a project?

Mary Kay: Just as a matter of personality, I always work to a purpose. I have no use for spinning wheels trying to get somewhere without knowing where it is I want to get. When I work, I do not think in one-to-one symbol-to-meaning relationships the way I wrote about them. Although I do have the purpose, plan and criteria set up before I start designing, everything happens all at once. Only after the fact can I see symbols and their many layers of meaning in support of the general statement of purpose. What I see is by then abstracted miles away from literal one-one correspondence. Looking at my own finished work really is no different than looking at somebody else's.

DM: What does your studio (or creative space) look like?

Mary Kay: Home to my art work would probably surprise you. My studio is huge—chic, sleek and industrial—like a Soho loft with a huge skylight. In fact, it's a beautifully remodeled basement designed just for me, so everything is wher it has to be for the way I like to work. Stylistically, the studio has nothing in common wiht the elaborate gold-clad art work that comes out of it. I don't know why that is. Unfortunately, there are no photos of the studio. After more than thirty shots of me looking fat and pale with the diptych, the camera broke.

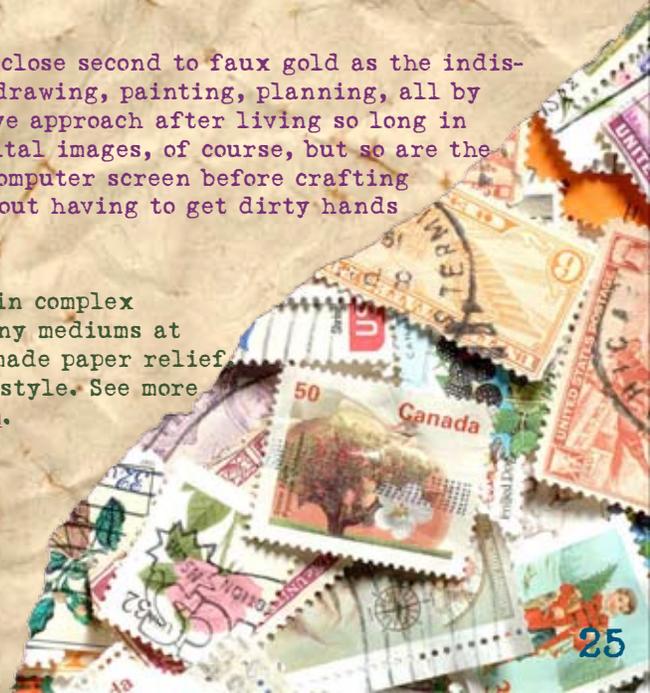
DM: What is your favorite art supply?

Mary Kay: Faux gold is the one art material I couldn't live without. Maybe I could; but I haven't tried. It appears on every piece I made during the past twenty years and functions both as a device to organize compositions and as a meaning-laden symbol. Nearly everything you can see or imagine is covered in the gold mythology, so gold in the art is as useful as it is pretty. Nobody's mind slams shut at the first sight of pretty art work. Minds may close later; but at least the pretty art work gets a chance. At first I used metallic gold watercolor and got a lot of mileage out of it. A recent switch to faux gold leaf expanded my horizons immeasurably, since leaf's texture is adjustable from smooth to wrinkled to erose. Most of the color in the diptych and the foot stool cushion is gold leaf on or below the surface, by the way. That's a happy side effect. I love colors; but I'm not particularly fond of painting them on with a natural brush. (The gray comes from collage of handwritten and computer text on translucent paper.) I'm just scratching the surface of faux gold leaf's practicality, so nothing will leave the studio without it for a while longer.

DM: Any other favorite art supplies?

Mary Kay: My Mac equipment and graphics software system runs a close second to faux gold as the indispensable tool of the trade. In a pinch, I could do a good job of drawing, painting, planning, all by hand, but I would certainly hate to revert to that labor-intensive approach after living so long in digital paradise! Colleen and the paper doll princesses are digital images, of course, but so are the diptych and the foot stool cushion. I made their modesl on the computer screen before crafting them in natural media. It's still a treat to see the results without having to get dirty hands achieving it.

Mary Kay Colling's fine art originals explore texture and color in complex compositions that are appealing and interesting. They come in many mediums at various times, oils, watercolors, mixed media and textural handmade paper relief. Paper relief in brilliant color and heroic size is her signature style. See more of her work at <http://www.mkcolling.com> and <http://www.evedom.com>.



# Who's A Princess?



Pretty Paper Projects  
to Color and Cut

For You and Your  
Grandmother

from EVEDOM®  
YOU!  
That's  
Who

MARY KAY  
COLLING

Perfect Your Digital  
and Natural Media  
Painting Skills on  
*Colleen*, an Original  
EVEDOM® Drawing



Instruction and Art by  
Mary Kay Colling



LET'S  
COLOR  
COLLEEN

LEARN TO PAINT  
EVEDOM® STYLE



**Rough Time/Splendid Moments**

# Deana David

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Deana: Theatrical. Circusy. Like vaudeville colliding with Victoriana—sometimes seedy, sometimes sexy—always brave with humor.

DM: Do you have a favorite piece of art that you own, but didn't create?

Deana: Yes, I own an oil painting that my very talented sister did of my cat, Piewacket. It's a portrait—he's wearing Elizabethan garb including a very strapping doublet and lacy collar. His little white face looks confused, but haughty, and there's a coat of arms in the corner featuring three dead mice lying on their backs, a piece of shrimp, a heart, and a tree (for climbing). The way she captured his face—the devilment within—is uncanny. I love her. I love Piewacket, and I love this piece.

DM: What does your studio (creative space) look like?

Deana: It looks like a meteor landed there! It's a mess! I can't ever find anything I'm ever looking for. I do more anger push-ups in my studio than anywhere else, but frustration works for me. I'm a little scared to get too tidy—no more frustration—or triceps!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Deana: I can't live without sheets of copper. I love to burn it, paint it, transfer it. I love the shine—not as gaudy as gold, but not as tinny as silver. There's a rainbow quality to burnt copper that I can't live without. I'd make copper underpants if I could.



DM: What is your favorite kind of music?

Deana: My favorite music is campy cabaret—the cornier, the better. I love the new nightclub crooners. I love covers of old French songs mixed in with Kate Bush and Natalie Merchant. I never get tired of the same Cole Porter covers, and I never get tired of performers' personal patter—stories and recollections—in between songs.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Deana: Of course, I love my sweet mumma more than anything in this world, but I worship Stephen Sondheim, the musical composer. I live his stories in my mind every day. I'm completed with music—I'm moved by his words. In Sunday in the Park with George, he writes, "the child is so sweet, and the girls are so rapturous..isn't it lovely how artists can capture us?" That sentiment pops into my head every single time I'm creating—whether I'm painting, collaging, singing, or writing. It's good to be reminded how art overlaps itself and the overflow pours out through the artists. In other words, be an artist!

Deana David is a New York artist and writer, born in the Netherlands in 1972, currently working as a fine artist and evolving a series of literary travelogues. Her articles and work are often seen in the renowned art publication, Somerset Studio, and she is a regular contributor to Artella. Her latest story, "The Trouble With Tiarmisu," was recently published in Italy. In 2003, Deana formed the company Scattered Palette Designs, through which she markets and sells her mixed media collages.

Deana attended Rose Bruford College in London, England where she received a Bachelors Degree in Costume Design and Construction. She worked for several years in London on professional West End and fringe theatre shows, and traveled extensively through France. Other education includes Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and Marymount College.

Deana is a devoted traveler who pets strange animals, kisses statues, and perpetually has cobwebby hands and grass-stained knees. See her work in The Shoppes of Artella at <http://www.artellawordsandart.com/DeanaDavid.html>. You can contact Deana at [deanalea@yahoo.com](mailto:deanalea@yahoo.com).

DEANA  
DAVID





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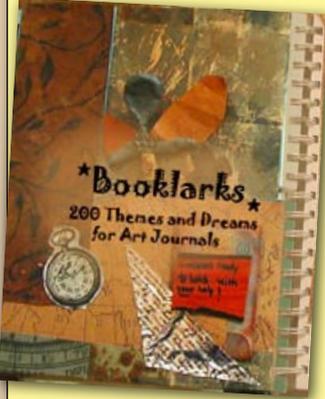


"[You\\*U™](#) has opened my mind to possibilities I haven't considered before. It's not just a "learning a process" program, it is also wonderful inspiration and encouragement of sleeping creativity! Marney's gentle & brilliant shepherding through the process provides a comfortable, safe, yet stimulating, learning environment for my covert artist/writer to emerge into and expand through. I am excited to witness myself exploring areas I never have before and bringing forward ideas seemingly out of nowhere!"

- Donna McGuigan

"THANK YOU for a wonderfully inspiring, satisfying and juicy teleconference!!! It was so great to meet you, Marney, and all of the other amazing, creative people who communed with us. I can see how this exercise would conjure up magical new ideas and connections that one might never think of solo. Thanks for hosting such a wonderful forum in which all things are possible."

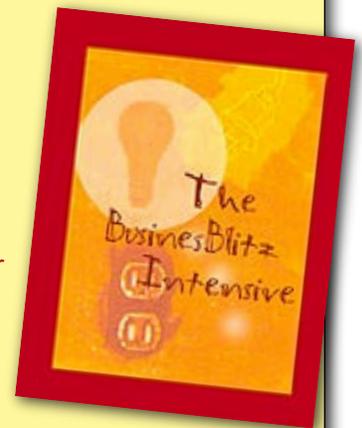
- Karen Amore-Mueller



"Just have to let you know how much I love my Artella membership, Artella Magazine and the new e-book [Booklarks](#). I am a fledgling artist but it gives me the courage and inspiration to have fun and appreciate my own art. [Booklarks](#) deserves some kind of award - it is delightful."

- Gail Edlund

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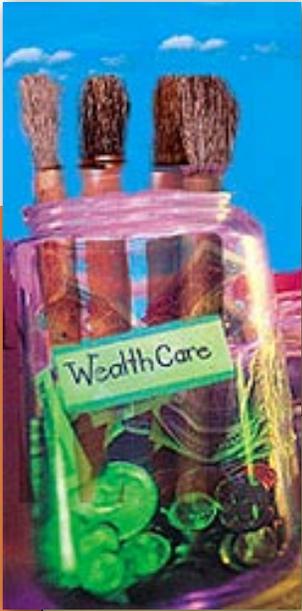


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# Anne Davies

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Anne: I am a freelance writer, crafts artist/teacher based in Cheshire, United Kingdom.

DM: What led you to teaching?

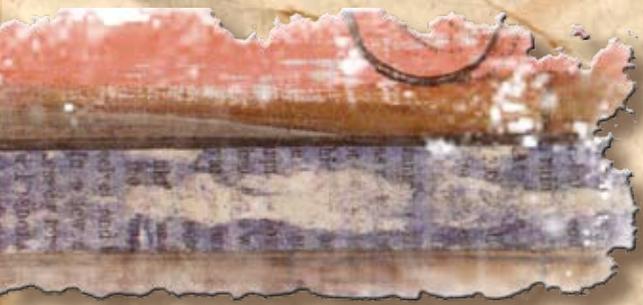
Anne: After completing a degree in clothing and design, I worked for a short period in the fashion industry. I then went on to teach fashion design and textile craft in the college sector for several years. I currently run crafts workshops in my local community for both adults and children, including some with special needs. My aim is to show anyone how easy it is to make beautiful items from things that are all around us; household junk, the hot colours of summer blooms and the delicate textures of autumn leaves have all provided themes for my work.

DM: What does studio (creative space) look like?

Anne: My workshop is full of baskets containing dried plant materials, ribbons, plastic containers and anything that I think has some creative potential.

DM: Who inspires you?

Anne: Traditional crafts artists are a real inspiration for me. I recently visited a basket-making studio and there were several artists just sitting on the floor weaving the most incredible baskets, some of which would end up for sale in Harrods! I also love contemporary painters such as David Hockney and Mark Rothko - their use of colour is breathtaking.



# Nici Derosier

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Nici: I would say I like to take everyday objects and art them up, repurpose them as embellished and bejeweled treasures, semi-sacred relics.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Nici: It changes frequently, though I am very fond of the altered wall clock in my studio. My other favorite pieces are journals I have created for friends and family, which are out in the world being used!

DM: What does your studio look like?

Nici: Right now it is undergoing a transformation, as I am investing in some nice long tables from Ikea to increase my work surfaces. I have one of our small bedrooms all to myself as my studio. Art dolls hang on the walls and from the ceiling, albums full of atcs are lined on shelves next to vintage books, Artella magazine issues, clip art volumes, and other bound material. Over 200 rubberstamps march across narrow wooden strips across one wall, and nearby are tubs of inkpads and embossing powders. I have multiple drawers overflowing with papers of all kinds, jars of pearl ex powders lined up on the windowsill, over 40 pots of shimmering watercolors scattered about my current worktable (an old closet door propped up on shelves) and a desk with my computer and scanner for my Artella job. The ceiling is painted with glow in the dark constellations, and often Norah Jones sings to me while I work!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Nici: Heat gun! I love melting stuff. Oh, and my Twinkling H2O's - watercolors with mica in them. To die for pigments and hues!

DM: What are your favorite books?

Nici: This is a partial list! I have too many! The Red Tent, Ladies #1 Detective Agency, Black Elk Speaks, The Da Vinci Code, Songs of the Gorilla Nation, anything by Anne Lamott or Annie Dillard, and sultry romance novels!



DM: What are your favorite movies?

Nici: The Koyaanisqatsi Trilogy by Godfrey Reggio, Amelie, Pride and Prejudice, Dances with Wolves, Empire of the Sun, Jackie Chan flicks and chick flicks.

DM: What is your favorite music?

Nici: Norah Jones, Foo Fighters, Coldplay, U2, Kate Bush, Coc-  
teau Twins, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Carlos Nakai, Vivaldi

DM: Who are your favorite artists?

Nici: Joseph Cornell, Klimt, Seurat, Susan Seddon-Boulet, De  
Chirico, Calder, Hiroshige, Teesha Moore, Mattise

DM: Whom do you most admire?

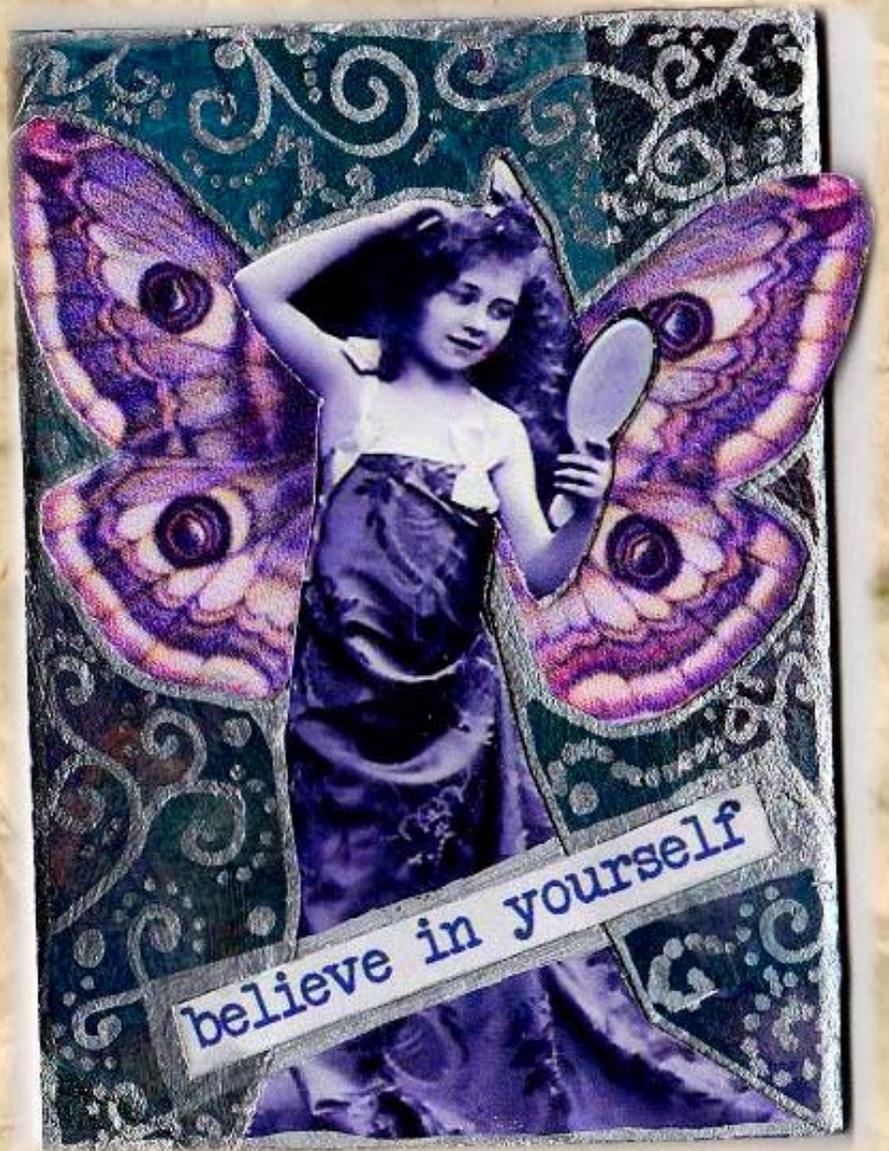
Nici: Friends of mine who are artists and writers; I know so  
many and they all inspire me. The internet has allowed me to  
cross cyber-paths with remarkable and creative people all over  
the globe. Also, my super smart and supportive husband and my  
three sons. My oldest son has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of  
Autism, and my youngest is Bi-polar and has ADHD. They both  
have remarkable humor and coping skills as they make their  
way in the world. My middle son is loyal to his brothers and  
rides the whitewaters that result from his brothers' challeng-  
es with skill and nerve. They are all my heart, and inspire  
much of the work I do.

Nici Derosier is a mixed media artist, sometimes poet, and Artella's Admin-  
istrative Assistant. Visit her online gallery, <http://www.artshapedworld.4t.com/>, and see her one-of-a-kind items in The Shoppes of Artella at [www.artellawordsandart.com/NiciDerosier.html](http://www.artellawordsandart.com/NiciDerosier.html)



NICI  
DEROSIER

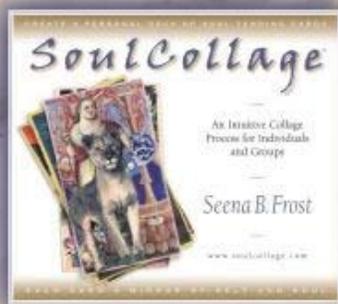




# Seena Frost

DM: How would you describe your art?

Seena: My art is finding and, in some creative way, embracing the beauty in the often-over-looked and ordinary things of life.



DM: Can you tell me more about the fence?

Seena: Here's the story in a nutshell. I have walked around a certain strawberry field near my home every morning for years. This last winter at dawn I began to photograph the old, mostly wood, fence around that field, a fence I have passed without noticing forever. And then the fence began to come alive and tell me about itself, and about aging, and about steadfastness.

DM: How did you respond artistically?

Seena: I listened and journaled and finally discovered poems emerging from the fence-murmurings. Several of the posts had their own special character and history and voice. Listening to and transcribing all this is the creative work of my heart at present, and will most likely be for another year or so. I call the photos and poems The Journal of a Steadfast Fence.

DM: Do you have a favorite fence post?

Seena: It doesn't seem quite fair to my fence for me to select any one as my favorite—but I do have to admit a certain partiality to The Mystic who's other name is Hafiz. Notice his one eye, his big nose, and his bowing hands. Every morning, on my walk, I bow to him and replace his snail-eye if it should have fallen on the ground. I sense he is the backbone of this entire project.

DM: What type camera do you use?

Seena: Photographs are taken with a digital camera (Olympus C-750 zoom) and enhanced with Photoshop.

Seena B. Frost is the author of *SoulCollage: An Intuitive Process for Individuals and Groups*. You can visit her site at [www.soulcollage.com](http://www.soulcollage.com).



### FRAMER OF THE DAWN

Stoop down and look through me.  
Look through and beyond;  
It's the dawn of a promising day.  
See

How the berry poles stand at attention,  
Holding their breath?  
They watch as Her Holiness enters our valley,  
Riding the hem of the rain.  
For a moment she nestles tight by the hills  
Robed bright in a finger of fog.  
Wait now... Just listen...  
For she's ringing her chimes.  
It's the signal for seedlings to start the climb  
Up their poles towards the beckoning sun.  
Stoop down and look through me.  
Look through and beyond;  
It's the dawn of a promising day.



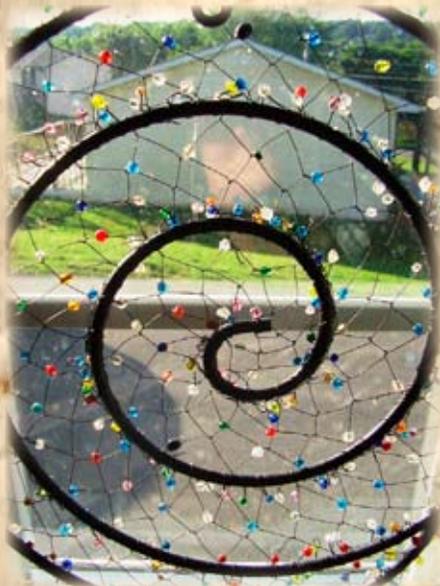
### THE MYSTIC

On the day the Formless One  
Fell,  
And shattered into a million forms,  
Love became needed, and so  
Love was born.

Love is a magnet  
Between par-tic-u-lar Things;  
Love is a yearning  
Between sep-ar-at-ed Beings.  
Love is our divine defense  
Against chaos.

So, when I see you and you see me,  
Love appears.  
When I bow to you and you bow to me,  
Love comes nearer.  
Love re-mem-bers us  
As One.

# Antje Geisler



DM: How would you describe your art?

Antje: Mixed media art—I'm in an intense phase of exploring all kinds of techniques and mediums. It's personal art—my true self shining through.

DM: What kind of art are you working on now?

Antje: I do a lot of mail art right now. I love getting fun stuff in the mail!

DM: What does your studio (or creative space) look like?

Antje: As messy as anyone else's, I hope!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Antje: Paper. And paper, and then, paper. Did I mention paper? :)

DM: What are your favorite books?

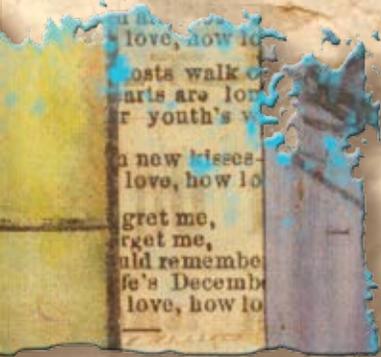
Antje: I read a lot of different books, so favorites change constantly?

DM: Do you have any favorite movies?

Antje: My favorites are: Out of Africa; Harold and Maude; Space Balls (You shot MY HAIR!!!)

DM: What is your favorite music?

Antje: Classical music and world music...and anything and anybody that can catch my senses.



DM: Whom do you most admire?

Emerging

Antje: Really, I don't know. So many people have lived their life well. I guess I admire that—spending the time you've been given wisely.

Antje Geisler is blonde, green-eyed, middle-aged, putting one foot in front of the other, and a dog mommy. She has a black belt in Kung Fu and makes her living as a preschool teacher. She wonders what it all means on occasion and then just goes on with what needs doing. She recently moved from the Northwest to the South...and OMG, is amazed at the bugs there! If you want to know more, or say hello to Antje, visit her blog at: <http://etayne-artifacts.blogspot.com/>



Adrift on the Menopausal Sea



# Lani Gerity

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Lani: Ha! Besides being pretty eclectic (read: hard to pin down or categorize) I'd say all my creative efforts have elements of animation, ancient treasure, fun and play, and there's often a zen sparseness to a lot of what I do.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Lani: Usually the last thing I have completed captivates my attention. Like I just finished a whole series of art journals (and it was just supposed to be one for Zura's class) and I find I like the one I finished most recently the best. And of course there is a puppet of mine that lives with Marney that is my favorite puppet. She is very sweet and has a very encouraging grandmotherly look to her. (Marney's note: "This is SO true! Lani's Fairy Godmother puppet watches over the Artella office and takes such good care of me. I absolutely adore her.")

DM: What does your studio look like?

Lani: Oh my goodness, what was supposed to be my studio is now actually a storage room at the moment with huge bins of supplies, shelves of inspiring books, baskets of treasure, tins and boxes and books ready to alter. The rest of this old fisherman's cottage has corners and tables and comfy chairs to do writing, reading, and arting. So really the whole house is my studio. Just ask my DH.



DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Lani: Bee's Wax would be one of my favorite things. You can add pigment to it, you can alter things with it, and it does such amazing things to paper. And wonder bread is an amazing sculpting material for puppet parts. (You can find the recipe on my website) But really, most supplies I feel as though I couldn't live without. I mean... paper? No, got to have it. Paint, water color, acrylic... no, got to have it. Gesso? no, got to have it. Mod Podge? No, got to have it. Gold rub and buff, gold leaf, gold pens, gold anything? no, got to have it. Old magazines and books for cutting up and altering... got to have that. Pens, Pencils, oil pastels...Sigh. No wonder my "studio" is now a storage room and my whole cottage is my studio.

DM: What are your favorite books?

Lani: Again, where can I start with this? Whew. Favorite books are ones having to do with journaling and book binding. If you combine these two into one book I'm over the moon for days. True Colors would be one of my top favorite books.

DM: Favorite Movies?

Favorite movie directors/writers would be Horton Foote ("To Kill a Mockingbird", "Tender Mercies", "The Trip to Bountiful", etc.), Frank Kapra, Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu, John Sayles, Bergman, Felini, and a lot more... I just can't think of them all right now.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Lani: The Dalai Lama, not just because of his spiritual teachings, but he's this really happy guy who has a whole cultural history of oppression and suffering at the hands of the Chinese government, and yet he's very happy and very forgiving. I really admire that a lot. (It puts my annoyance with male hygiene and stuff like that into perspective, if you know what I mean.)

To see more more of Lani's art and wonderful world, visit her web site at <http://www.lanipuppet-maker.com>, read her blog at <http://lanipuppetmaker.blogspot.com>, and purchase her splendidly inspiring zines in [The Shoppes of Artella](#).



LANI  
GERITY



# Dan Gremminger

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Dan: I like to create in various media. My colored pencil artwork has come from years of play and practice. Layers are built up slowly with blends and gradations to achieve a deep rich coloration.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art?

Dan: My favorite personal piece is "The River". It's a huge canvas that was inspired by my parent's land and the sense of life that is everywhere in Nature. The water is full of colors swirling and flowing; and in the distance is a big Texas thunderstorm barreling down the horizon.

DM: What does your studio space look like?

Dan: My studio is a wild, stuffed colorful (seemingly unorganized) jumble that sparks my visual and creative juices. Art, toys, collections and photos all jockey for attention on the walls. It's overpowering for most grown-up visitors, but creative types and kids love it.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Dan: The art supply that I cannot live without is Sharpie Markers. They can draw on almost any surface and I use them for art, mailing packages and everyday office use. I must admit that I love all my art supplies, from my colored pencils, to glue, to scissors, but markers are the most used in my daily life.

DM: What is your favorite book?

Dan: The Artists Way changed my life. It was given to me at the perfect time and I got so much out of it. It affects my creativity and my approach to art. I cannot recommend it too highly. Also on the list of influential books: 1984, Naked Lunch, Brave New World, and The Catcher in the Rye.

DM: Favorite movies?

Dan: 2001, Harold and Maude, Young Frankenstein, The Graduate, Star Wars, Female Trouble, Being There, Magnolia, Network, Rushmore.

DM: Favorite artists?

Dan: Picasso, Rembrandt, van Gogh, da Vinci, Dali, Takashi Murakami, and Gary Baseman.

DM: Favorite music?

Dan: REM, Radiohead, Sufjan Stevens, Sigur Ros, U2, Bjork, Aimee Mann, Fiona Apple, Miles Davis, Prince and Peter Gabriel.

DM: Other favorites?

Dan: The TV shows "Lost", "My Name is Earl", "The Daily Show" and "Six Feet Under". And "Mutts", the Comics.

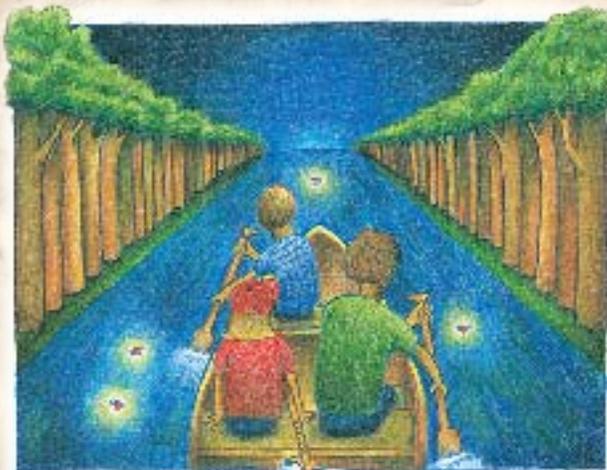
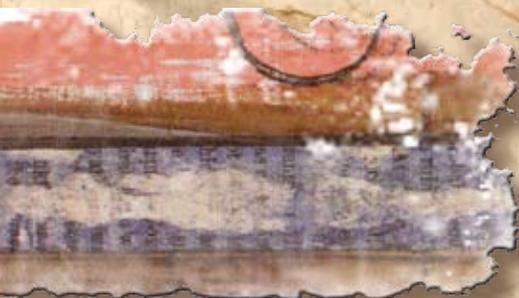


illustration from *Deep River Dark*

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Dan: I most admire Bono. He's an artist who has explored his creativity and keeps improving and modifying his skills. I love the music of U2. And he has an inner compass and heart; he's using his celebrity to make the world a better place. The highest achievement one can hope for is to contribute to the betterment of all mankind.

Dan Gremminger has lived various lives all while remaining in Texas. Whether it's music, or theater, or the visual arts, Dan has been drawn like a moth to the flame. The Artist's Resume is littered with bulleted entries that include: band, UIL competitions, cable access TV shows, and a line of t-shirts.

As a grown-up serious adult, Dan is an Art Director who has worked as a Freelancer for over twenty years in Dallas. He and his partner, Bradley Harding, share a home in a beautiful, woody area in East Dallas near White Rock Lake.

And on the artist side, Danno is very happy. He assists Bradley on his movie projects. They have created a crafty website, [www.zerogdanno.com](http://www.zerogdanno.com), a destination full of unique craft projects from the far reaches of the universe. They have self-published a children's book, *Deep River Dark*, which has received rave reviews and is carried in popular children's bookstores nationwide. And Danno is painting a series of works that originated in his cancer journal.

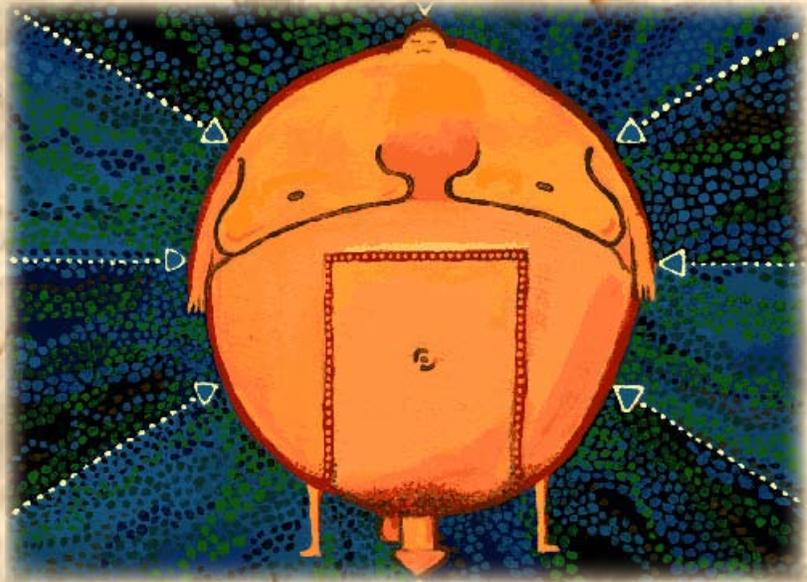
You can contact Danno at [danno@zerogdanno.com](mailto:danno@zerogdanno.com)



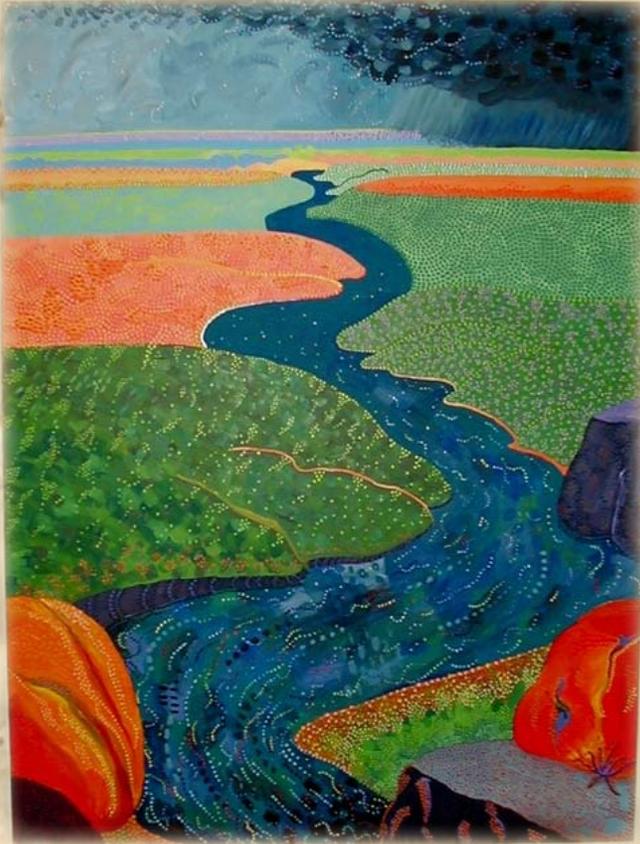
L. Toïd



DAN  
GREMMINGER



Radiation



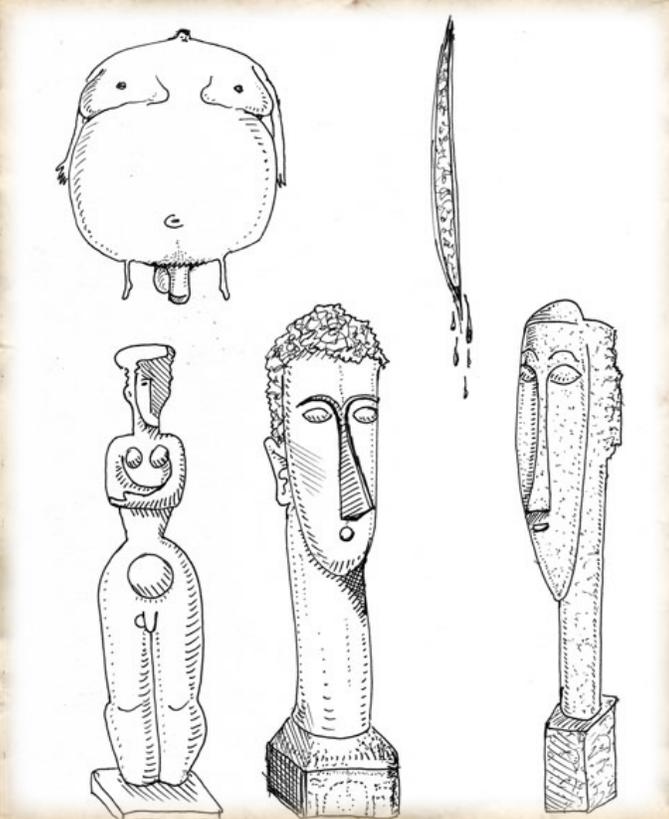
Voices



digitally-generated illustration from  
"The Grinch That Stole My Vacation,"  
a short story that premiered in Artella Issue 9



The logo for [www.zerogdanno.com](http://www.zerogdanno.com),  
Dan's Web site world featuring  
free gift and craft projects



Cancer Journal, excerpt

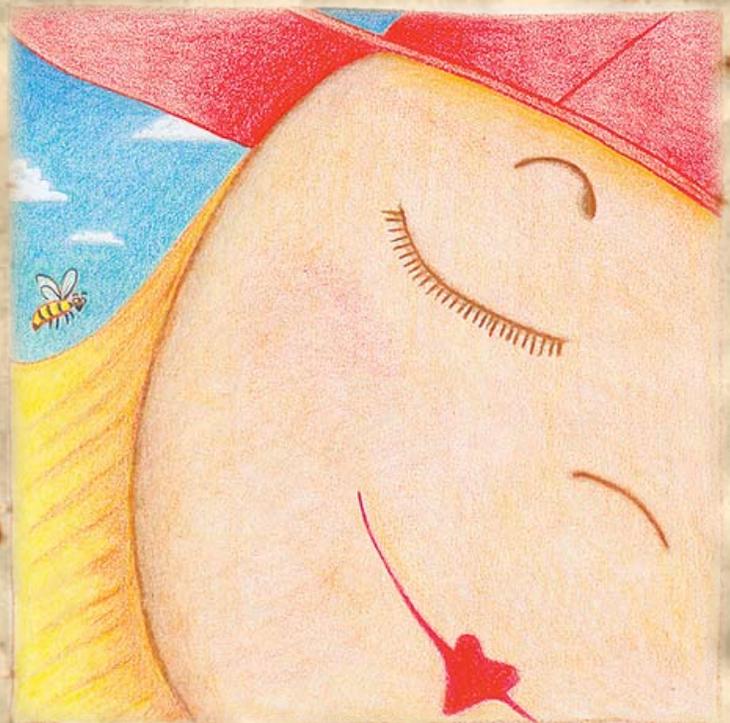


illustration from Deep River Dark

# Kara Gridley



Tree of Life



Red Chair



Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Kara: It's somewhat primitive, almost like folk art, which I like. I enjoy great technique in painting but it's not necessarily what I'm trying to do. If I capture movement or an idea or create energy then I'm very happy with a painting.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Kara: It's small at the moment, but the walls are surrounded by art and photos of people I love; also quotes that have caught my fancy.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Kara: White paint.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Kara: Anyone living their authentic self, who clearly lives with peace and joy in themselves every day; they inspire me and are found everywhere.



Beyond the Door

# Rachel Kitterman

DM: How would you describe your art?

Rachel: I am a mixed-media/fiber artist, which is just another word for



Sacred Space

DM: Tell us more about the things you make.

Rachel: I make art quilts (quilts that are meant to be hung on a wall rather than laid on a bed), art dolls, boxes, vessels, altered books, ATCs, artist books, shrines, jewelry, clothes, and, I also draw, paint, knit and crochet. Really, if it will hold still, I'll make art out of it!

DM: What does your studio (or creative space) look like?

Rachel: Last year I moved my studio out into this little converted barn on our property. It's awesome! I now have both my fiber and paper art spaces in one room which is really nice. I have oodles of windows and a big design wall for my quilts. I have a big cutting table for fabric and another table for paper art work with all my paints, scraps, glue, etc. I really love having my own space separate from the main house where I can just crank up the tunes and create.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Rachel: Do I have to pick just one? Probably my sewing machine, although a handy dandy glue stick is way up there on the list. Nothing beats a sketchbook and a Pigma Micron pen either...of course, fabric, paper, scissors...obviously, I am an art supply junkie!

DM: What are your favorite books?

Rachel: The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron; Creative Cloth Doll Making by Patti Medaris Culea; Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah by Richard Bach; Free Style Quilts by Susan Carlson; anything by SARK; Cloth, Paper, Scissors and Quilting Arts magazines.



Vessel



DM: What are your have favorite movies?

Rachel: Harold and Maude; Grosse Pointe Blank; Fight Club; Serenity; American Beauty; What the Bleep Do You Know; Constantine; Donnie Darko; Home for the Holidays.

DM: What is some of your favorite music?

Rachel: Ani Difranco, Maia Sharp, Dave Matthews, Common Rotation, The White Stripes, Tom Petty, Queen...and oh, so many more! I have very eclectic musical tastes.

DM: What about favorite artists?

Rachel: Art quilters would be: Melody Johnson, Elizabeth Busch, Rachel Garrison, Laura Cater-Woods. Other artists would be: Claudine Hellmuth, Nina Bagley, Karen Michel, Teesha Moore...and I know there are so many others that I am forgetting!

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Rachel: Marney has to be way up there on the list! I really admire the way she goes after her dreams with such incredible gusto and how she is such an amazing light and support to others.

Rachel Kitterman is an art quilter and mixed media artist with a deep love for the written and printed word. She loves color and texture and strives to create works of art that speak to people and inspire them. Her Mixed-Media/Fiber Artist website is <http://www.RachelKitterman.com>.

You can also find her at these links:

Dynamic Energetic Healing Practitioner <http://www.onedynamicenergetichealing.org>

Minister, Divine Mother Community <http://www.divinemothercommunity.com/home.html>

Rachel's Blog [http://indigoluna.typepad.com/indigo\\_luna/](http://indigoluna.typepad.com/indigo_luna/)

Daily Devotions Blog [http://indigoluna.typepad.com/indigo\\_spirit/](http://indigoluna.typepad.com/indigo_spirit/)

# Arthiss Kliever

**Daily Muse:** How would you describe your art?

**Arthiss Kliever:** Most of my current work is centered around altered books. All of my altered pieces have a sense of surprise and humor about them. They are very carefully thought out and meticulously assembled.

**Arthiss:** I would also have to include in my favorite pieces the nine quilted banners that I made for my daughter's (Artella Founder Marney Makridakis) wedding procession. Each one was so special, and they meant so much to Marney. These days, though, my favorite piece is usually what I am working on at the moment.

**DM:** What does your studio (or space where you create) look like?

**Arthiss:** I have a large workroom that is lined with tables and shelves. A big old door that sits on low chests in the middle of the room is my main work space. There are piles of stuff everywhere, representing various projects in progress. Two wonderful skylights give me plenty of natural light.

**DM:** What art supply can you not live without?

**Arthiss:** My altered book projects almost always utilize copies of images printed onto label paper, which I then cut out and stick to my pages. This eliminates the need for any other kind of paper adhesive. So I would have to say that currently my color copier/printer is my most essential "tool," and the large quantities of paper and ink that I use are my main art "supplies."



**Father Christmas**



DM: What are your favorite books?

Arthiss: Children's books are a huge part of my life right now, since I run a neighborhood children's library out of my home. Children's literature is absolutely delightful and often inspiring, and images from my picture books frequently find their way into my altered art. When I want something else to read, I usually pick up The New Yorker magazine, or a book of short stories.

DM: Favorite music?

Arthiss: Music-wise, I love Broadway musicals, especially those by Stephen Sondheim.

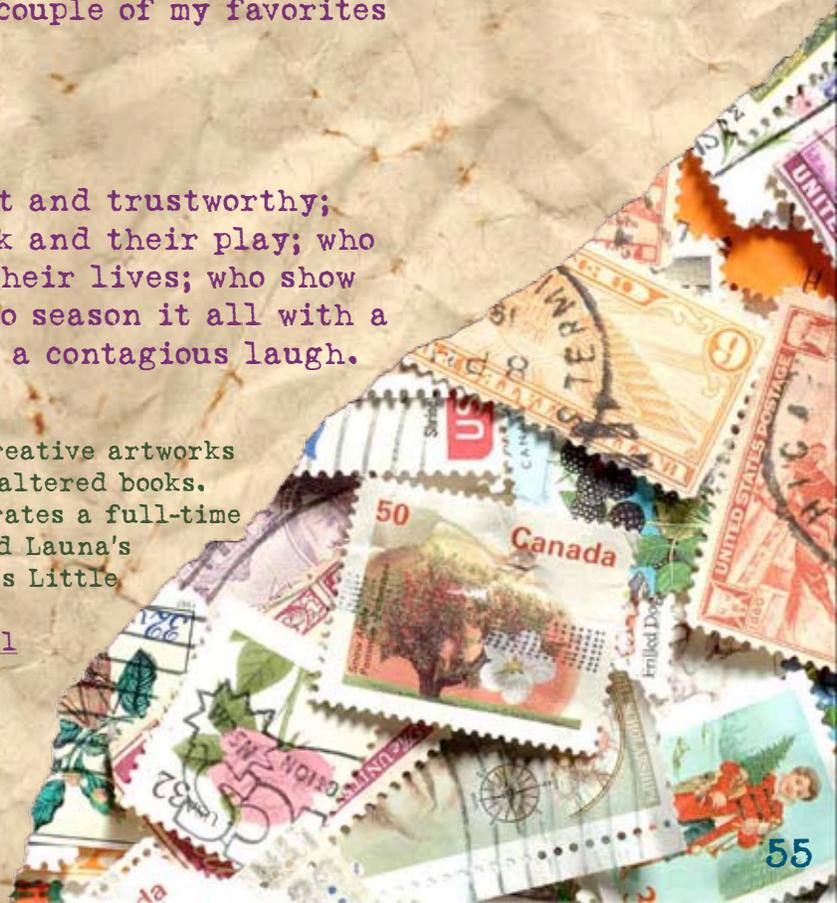
DM: And movies?

Arthiss: I am a sucker for romantic comedies, though I would name "Amadeus" and "Yentl" as a couple of my favorites from years past.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Arthiss: I admire people who are honest and trustworthy; who demonstrate fairness in their work and their play; who strive for passion and commitment in their lives; who show care and compassion for others; and who season it all with a positive outlook, a winning smile, and a contagious laugh.

Arthiss Kliever lives in Dallas, TX and her creative artworks include woodcuts, collage, and more recently, altered books. A lover of children's literature, she also operates a full-time children's lending library in her home, called Launa's Little Library. You can read more about Launa's Little Library at [www.artellawordsandart.com/LittleLibrary.html](http://www.artellawordsandart.com/LittleLibrary.html) To contact Arthiss, send an e-mail to [Arthiss@aol.com](mailto:Arthiss@aol.com)



ARTHISS  
KIEVER



"Playing in the Snow", another woodcut Christmas card.

10 The Secret in the Old Attic

go back in time  
spirits of departed loved ones  
Remembering  
this old place is haunted  
the main staircase  
ascending the stairway  
the handsome mahogany balustrade  
stained-glass window

... had been strong and therefore had been unable to do very much.

"I want you to see my house," he said late that afternoon. "Of course, it doesn't look like it used to, but I haven't been able to afford one as nice as either, for a long time."

"How old is the house?" asked Nancy.

"Over two hundred years, part of it is. Fact of the matter is, the first Marceus had slaves. Their quarters are still there."

"How intriguing," exclaimed Nancy. "When you're well enough to go, I'll drive you and you can show the place."

"Hi, Nancy!" said one of the callers. "What do you know?"

"My goodness, George Fayne!" she exclaimed, looking at her friend's head. "If I have much more hair cut off, people will think you're a boy."

"Suits me," said the slender brunette. She turned on the living room radio and turned it to a program of dance music. "Buck Rodman must play this way, or he wouldn't have asked me to go."

"Nancy, we came to find out if you're to get a new dress for the big affair," said Bess

The Old House 11

Marvin, the pretty, slightly plump girl with George.

"Please tell me what you're talking about," begged Nancy.

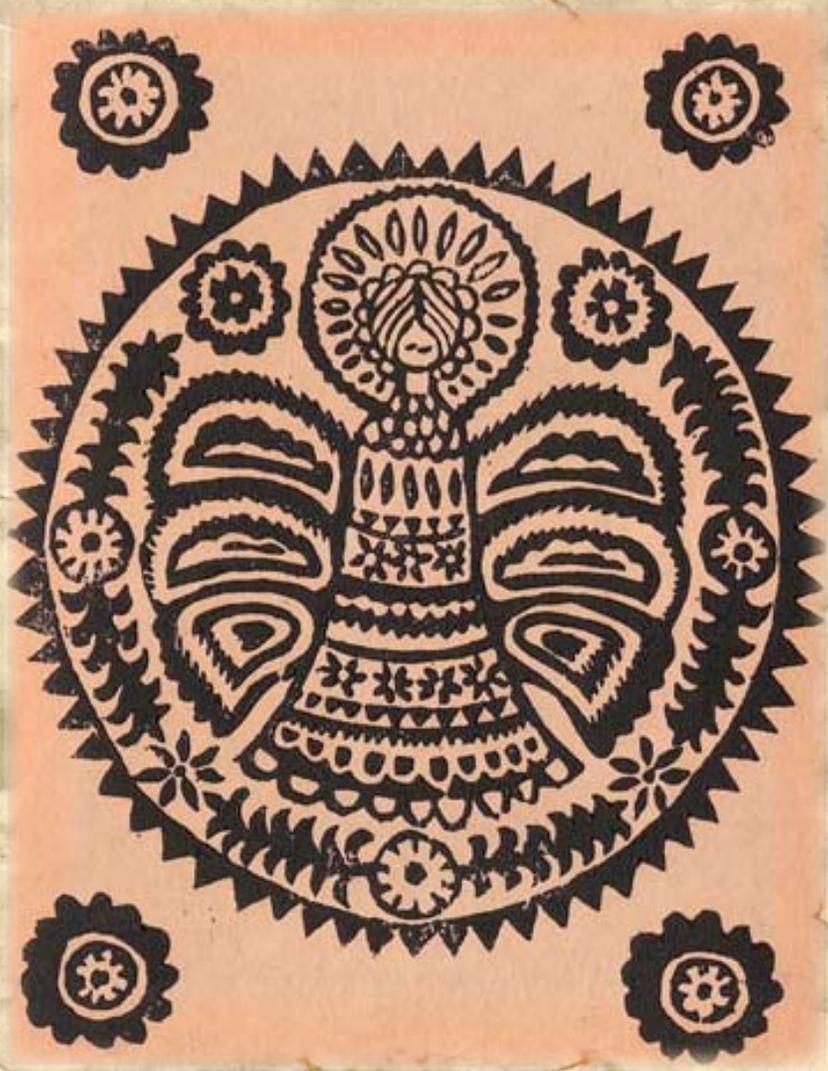
"Full of mystery as usual," laughed Bess. "You know well enough we mean the dance at the old house."



ing youth, but very conceited. Nancy did not

the entrance hall

Arthiss created this house design for a series of woodcuts back in the 70s, and then used it again recently in a project involving an altered Nancy Drew book.



Mexican Angel

# Zura Ledbetter

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Zura: I often call my collages emotional art. I'm not able to keep my emotions out of it, and the process of creating is full of feelings.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Zura: A piece called "Depression". I wanted to express what deep depression feels like. When I look at it now, I am reminded to be grateful for the happy days I live now.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Zura: It is a small bedroom with a nice north window and a large closet. I have a huge shelving unit with brightly colored boxes to hold the paper, tools, beads and other supplies. I have a nice art table covered with work in progress, paints, pens, scissors and scraps. Atop the desk sits my favorite lamp. One my son gave me with a shade of dark blue, sporting stars and comets.



Indian



Kah losm

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Zura: Gesso! Definitely, gesso. It is such a versatile medium. I use it under and over paint and paper in many ways.

DM: What is your favorite movie?

Zura: My favorite movie is "Little Lord Fauntleroy". The character has such sweet, innocent kindness that it continues to touch me.

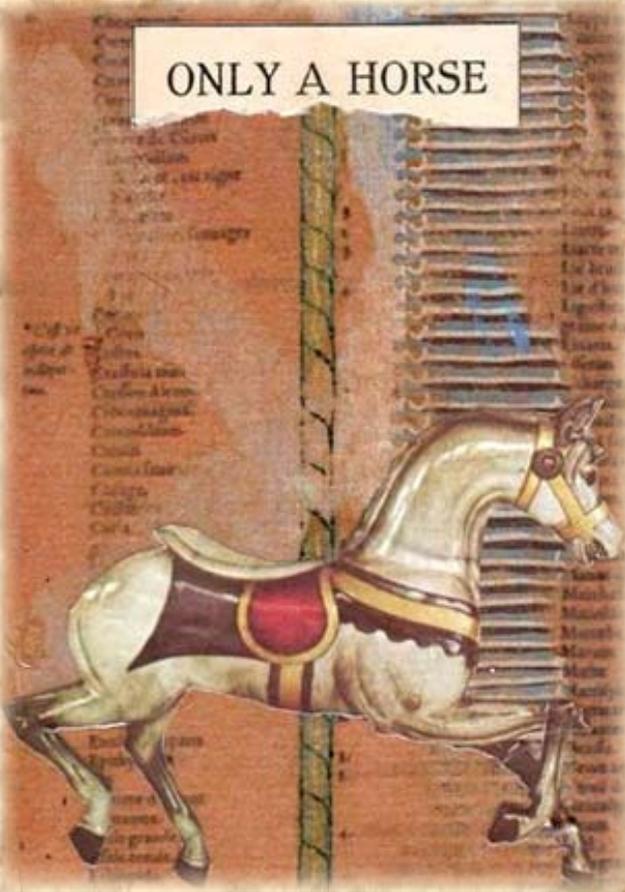
DM: Favorite artists?

Zura: Mary Cassat and Keith Haring.

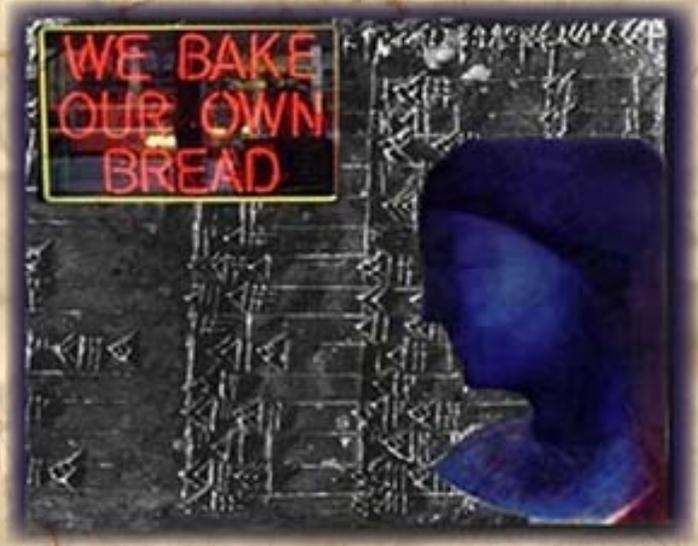
DM: Whom do you most admire?

Zura: I have great admiration for Laura Bush. She is my age and from my hometown. Her background has many similarities to mine. And yet, she is in such a powerful, public position. I feel that I couldn't live the life she lives. And if I could, I certainly couldn't do it with the poise and grace that she does.

Zura Ledbetter is a mixed media artist, Managing Director of Artella, and the author of several e-courses and eBooks. Check out her art and eProducts for sale at [artellawordsandart.com/Zura-BethLedbetter.html](http://artellawordsandart.com/Zura-BethLedbetter.html) and visit [www.zurabeth.com](http://www.zurabeth.com) to see more of her art and tips for digital artists.

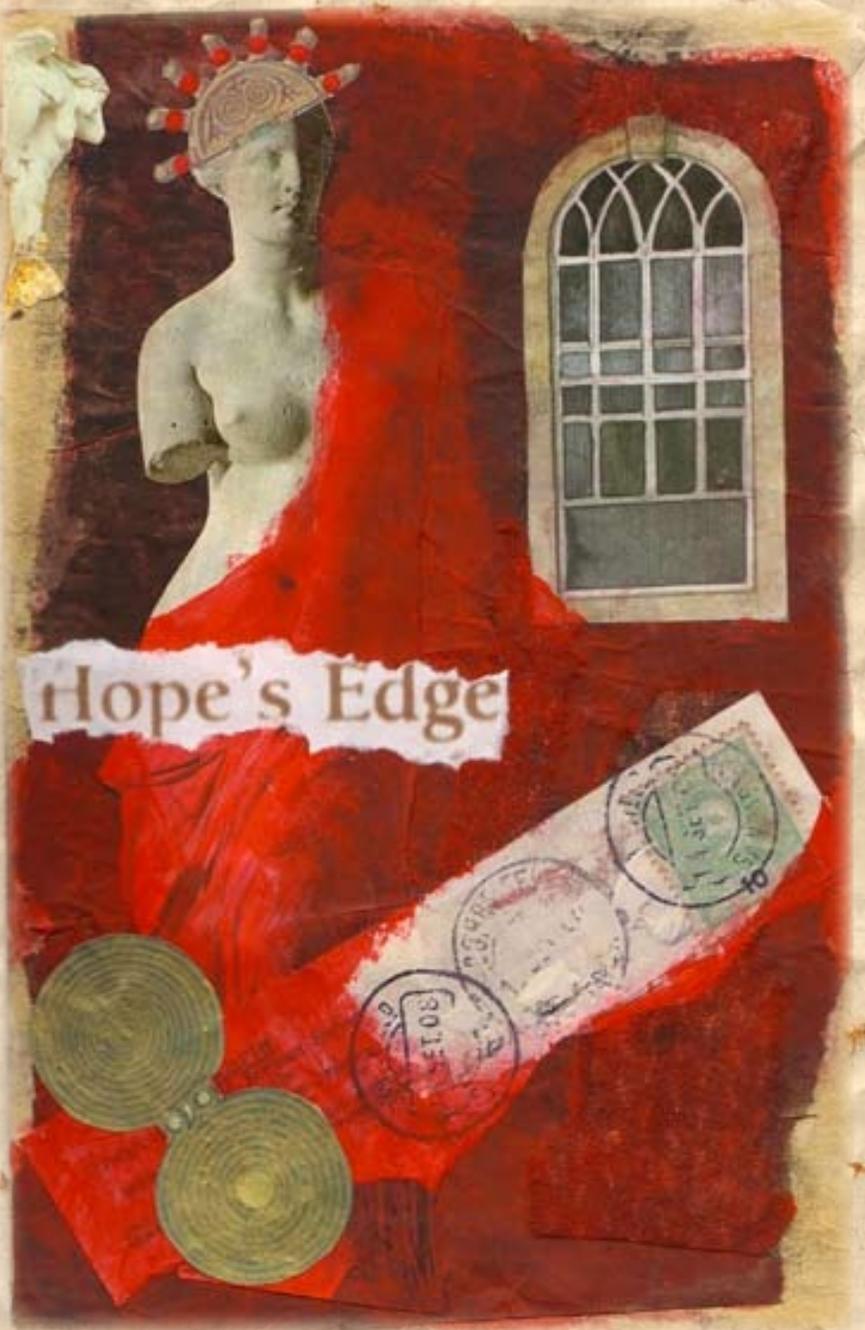


Perception



Enough

ZURA  
LEDBETTER



Hope's Edge



# Denise Mihalik

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Denise: As the expression of the process of my life. I've always found it oxymoronic when someone says it's not process-oriented in the academic way....

The idea of moment has always captivated me and i think my art reflects that. I am drawn to the female form and am always surprised by how many women show up in my work. Art for me is all inclusive, it excludes nothing. I don't feel i need to find ONE way of expressing my creativity.

DM: What is your favorite media?

Denise: I experiment and create with it all – camera, paints, charcoal, pens, words, watercolors, the computer, even trash! When i paint i have recently realized that i use my hands more than my brushes – so perhaps i'm a fingerpainting artist too... and I love that!

I believe everyone is an artist. My art is my heart on a page i am pretty certain.. its who i am. People have joked that my paintings are like mihalik rorsraques, because you are able to tell your own stories just by looking at them, everyone sees something completely different. I love to comingle all of my passions into one piece as well. I start with photos, add paints, create digitally, glue, collage and create something new. I love that my art is circular and i am proud that it is exceptionally expressive.

My art is all over the map. Some days i am moved to paint in acrylics, others to play with watercolor crayons, experimenting with collage, and capturing moments with my camera. I love words and writing and poetry and the expression of self thru my hands in all manners. I love being challenged to find a new way to do something. I love being challenged to push myself and create outside of my own limitations.

To quote Ani Difranco... "art is why i get up in the morning".

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Denise: Wow.. Now thats a TOUGHIE! My favorite piece of my own art – hrrrrmm. I just looked thru over 200 pieces and i'd have to say! I can't decide. I love a lot of them because they are all different aspects of myself!

Some of my favorites would probably be these: home again home again jiggity jig, standing at the bustop, 9/11, wanna play dress up?, summer goddess, desire, pardon me, inside me there is light, practice getting pissed, and of course...my greatest masterpiece...m'boys.

DM: What does your studio look like?

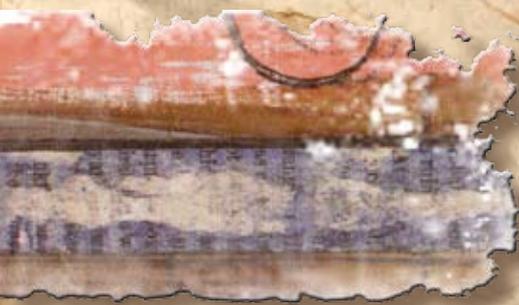
Denise: I create everywhere in my house! Currently my studio (right) looks like a bomb went off! I have been painting a lot and re-organizing. It's actually a spare bedroom that is all white with supplies and inspiration everywhere – this is where i typically paint larger pieces – stapled to the wall! WOOPS! Pretty messy, eh? I also paint in my kitchen with my children all the time. We call it kitchen doodling! I love this time and the lack of "stuido-esque" feeling.. it allows me to play a lot and not care about outcomes.. just have fun and enjoy the process of creating without expectation!

I find that i run off to the corner of my counter in my kitchen and often create as well. I will start a small drawing or painting and then keep adding to it throughout the day, sometimes its how i stay sane from the normal activity of life! My kids and i also make art in the playroom. Seems i can't keep my art contained to one spot. And i really enjoy that i don't have to!

And then there is my photography and a "studio" is anything that is living and in front of me. Sure i have a place i can take "studio-like" pictures, but i like thinking that the world and the people in it are my studio. I carry my camera with me EVERYWHERE. Its nice to realize that anyplace, anytime can be a space to create. I consider my office and computer room an extension of my studio as well, for its the place i spend most of my time and i am always creating on my computer!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Denise: Can i say SUPPLIES? My camera, my computer, watercolor paper, watercolor crayons, and india ink!



standing at the busstop

DM: What are your favorite books?

Denise: The Dot is my favorite book i'd have to say! It's a children's book and it speaks to just creating and believing in your own creativity. It's such a powerful tiny little book and my kids even know it's my favorite book EVER! :)

I love Twyla Tharp's Creative Habit! I love Gifts from the Sea.. because the sea is my sister. Rumi makes my heart sing and Neruda helps me to see things more clearly.

I'll have to include the new book coming out by James Campion, Midnight for Cinderella! Because my art graces the cover and is found inside the book as well! What a fun project that was and what a great opportunity to work with such an amazingly creative, inspiring muse!

DM: Favorite art?

Denise: I've loved Diebenkorn's work since the first time i laid eyes on it. I'd have to say of all painters, his work moves me most deeply. I love Hoppers light and Bonnard's palette. I always also secretly loved that Bonnard and Diebenkorn were more "painter's painters" — not so illustrative — lovers of paint. Looking at their work has often held my creativity together when i have struggled with self-doubt in the past.

I also love the artwork of my friends! I actually find more inspiration in my friend's work more often than the masters. I have amazingly creative friends that inspire me on a daily basis — prolific, talented, awe-inspiring work! Jacqueline Myers-Cho's work rocks my world all the time! And i have to admit my two sons are some of my favorite artists for sure!

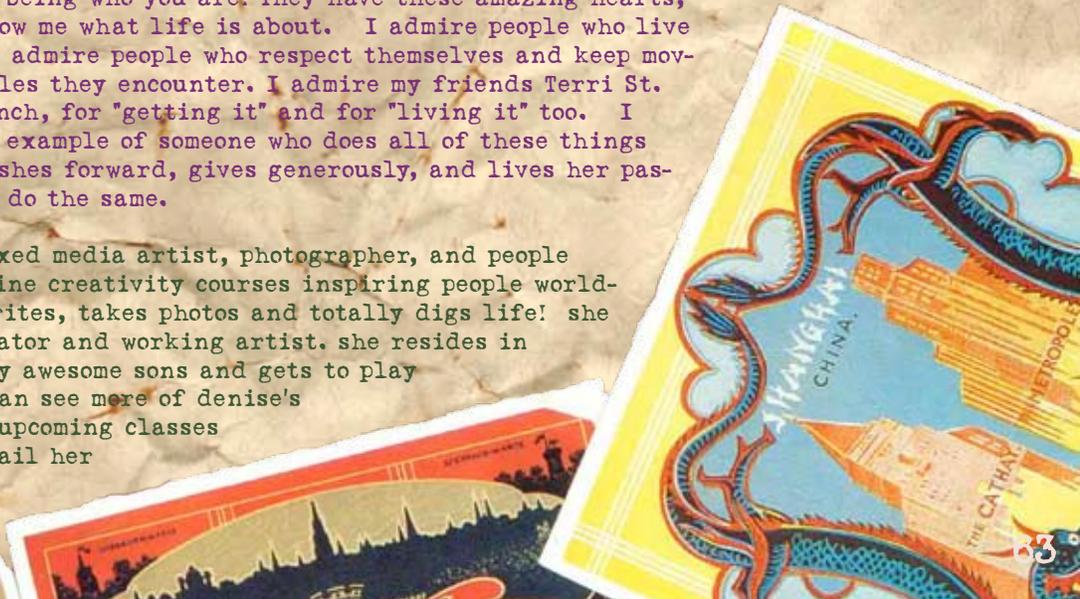
DM: Favorite music?

Denise: As far as music is concerned...I couldn't live without it. I would say Ben Harper, Ani Difranto and Pattie Griffin are some of my favorite artists. I have very eclectic taste in music tho — from hip hop to the Dead — if i can move my bum to it — I'm a pretty happy girl!

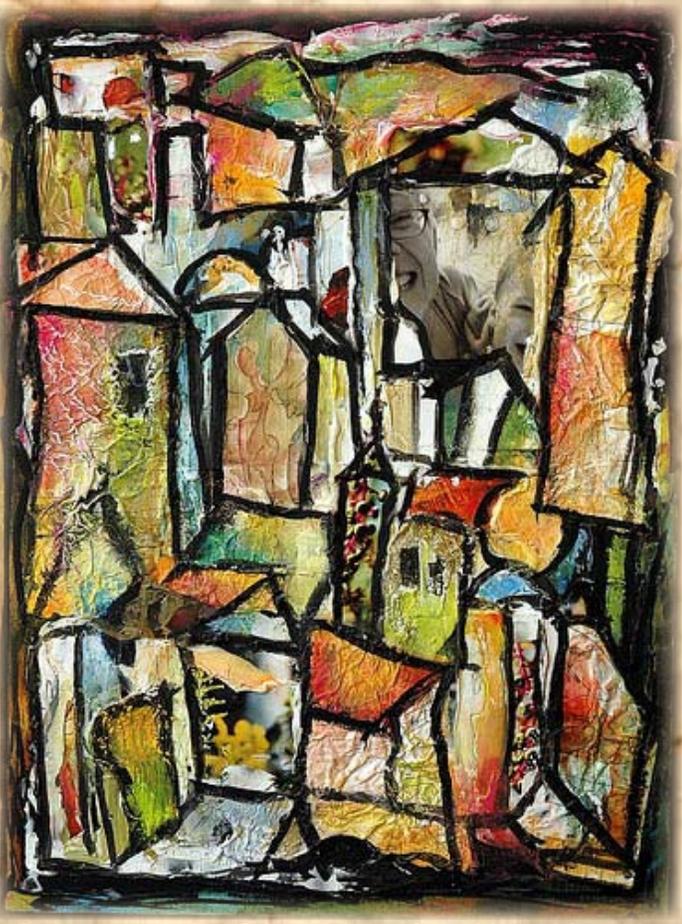
DM: Whom do you most admire?

Denise: I most admire my children and my parents. My parents for loving me unconditionally and supporting me — in every way possible. So much of my creativity is in my blood and i really lucky to such amazing people for a mom and a dad! My kids, well, cause they are divine in every way possible! They teach me everyday, lessons nobody else could ever teach me. They teach me to play and open my heart and express and be ok just being who you are! They have these amazing hearts, minds and spirits — one's that show me what life is about. I admire people who live fearlessly and are risk takers. I admire people who respect themselves and keep moving forward no matter the struggles they encounter. I admire my friends Terri St. Cloud and Deb Morbeto a whole bunch, for "getting it" and for "living it" too. I admire Marney, for being such an example of someone who does all of these things — loves openly, risks, creates, pushes forward, gives generously, and lives her passion in ways that allow others to do the same.

denise mihalik is a published mixed media artist, photographer, and people inspirer! denise facilitates online creativity courses inspiring people worldwide. Denise paints, collages, writes, takes photos and totally digs life! she is a certified muse group facilitator and working artist. she resides in new jersey with her two amazingly awesome sons and gets to play ticklemonster every night! you can see more of denise's work, or find out more about her upcoming classes at <http://denisemihalik.com> or email her at [denisemihalik@comcast.net](mailto:denisemihalik@comcast.net).



DENISE  
MIHALIK



home again home again jiggity jig



desire



summer goddess



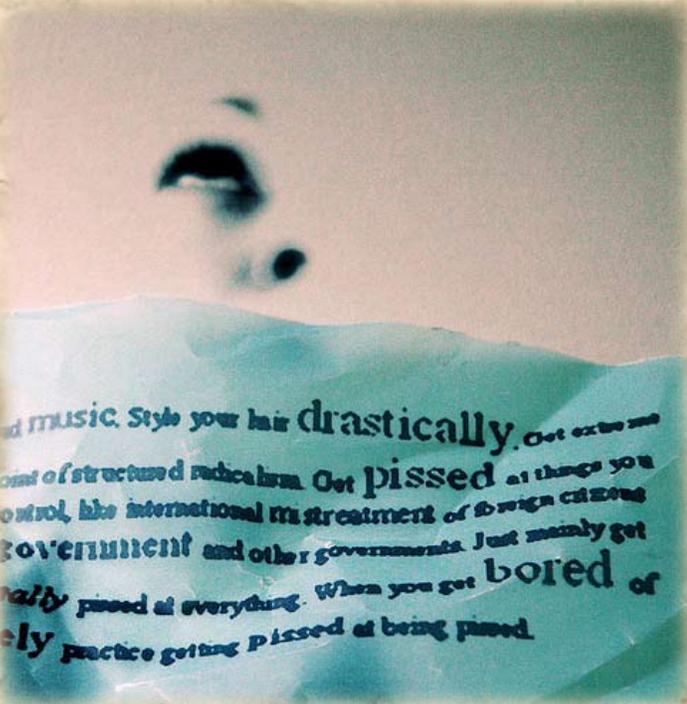
inside me there is light



pardon me



9/11



practice getting pissed



wanna play dress up?



DM: The Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Pattie: am a surface designer. What exactly does that mean?! Well, to me it means: GIVE ME A SURFACE AND I WILL PAINT IT!! I have often told people not to stand still to long in my studio, as they just might end up painted!!

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Pattie: Currently my favorite piece of art is a piece that I own, and I do not own many. It is a winged small dress form that I made to honor my creativity and my courage to fly (see below left). I made it for myself when I went to Virginia to take Jill Badonsky's Muse Facilitator class.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Pattie: My studio space is a bedroom in my home. My daughter use to call it hers when she was growing up..What does it look like....HA! Is this a trick question?!?! Trying to find out how messy I am!! It has a bright chinese red wall and a drafting table where I work that is loaded with toys and personal items that inspire me! Sometimes there is barely enough space for paint. It is covered, and I mean covered, with paper and pens and paint and journals and wood pieces. Art pieces that are started, art pieces that are in the finishing stages, art pieces that are still in the dreaming stages. There are books...lots and lots of books, and embellishments, colored pencils...often times there is a path from the door to the desk only!! It freaks some people out...but for me...I LOVE THE CLUTTER!! I can usually find what ever I am looking for if it is like this...if I get it to clean, things are to organized and I can't find a thing!! Because I am a visual person, I like the feel of everything around me, close, almost hugging me! Makes me more creative and gives me inspiration.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Pattie: I LOVE all art stores, but to be honest I like walking around craft stores. Why? Well, they always have interesting items there...lots of wood. Plus you have to love those 40% off coupons!!!

# Pattie Mosca

DM: What are your favorite books?

Pattie: I have a lot of favorite books and many I keep stacked in the studio or close. Not because I reread them, but because it feels right to have them around. I love Gift from the Sea by Anne Morrow Lindberg...The Little Prince...The Okay Book by Todd Parr...Max Makes a Million by Maira Kalman...Oh, I could go on and on...

DM: Favorite movies?

Pattie: I really am "hooked" on THE BIG FISH.....

DM: Music?

Pattie: All...but my newest favorite is OK GO!

DM: Artists?

Pattie: My daughter, Lea, my son, Jason, my friend MaryJane Morse, my friend Bob Whiteside.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Pattie: I most admire anyone who is working to capture their dreams. I admire Marney, Jill Badonsky, Debs Thompson, MaryJane Morse, Denise Mihalik, my husband, my children, cancer survivors. Really, don't look to me to admire those other than the people I know. I admire them on a personal level. I know them, they inspire me, I can touch and feel and my heart sings songs for them. I think for me, it is just that spirit connection. I do admire some people who have overcome odds and have made it big, but that is not where I put my heart.

Pattie Mosca is a true believer in the power of creativity for happiness and bliss! As a surface designer she does original and custom pieces that are collected by clients world wide. Pattie paints furniture and other objects as well as mixed media and art journals. She has the honor of doing her creativity daily! She lives in Rochester, New York with her good husband, Mr. Mike, and their 3 cats. She is also a certified Muse group facilitator and is studying to be a Kaizen-Muse coach. Visit her blog at <http://pjmosca.blogspot.com/>, and contact her at [pat1999@frontiernet.net](mailto:pat1999@frontiernet.net). Her "Luminosity" column of inspiring art appears in The Calmics section of The Artella Daily Muse every Tuesday and Thursday.



PATTIE  
MOSCA







# Tracy Roos

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Tracy Roos: I would say mixed media because I jump from collage to painting, to jewelry making to digital art, etc. I tend to make things that make me feel happy or cozy—the warm fuzzy feeling.

DM: What does your studio (or creative space) look like?

Tracy: At the moment it's a big, empty room. I just had beautiful, distressed, maple hardwood installed. I'm, hopefully, going to get my buns in gear and sort through my studio (which now fills the garage and dining room) so I can fill up my empty room with what I want and get rid of the rest!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Tracy: Hmm...I can't live without my glue stick.

DM: What are your favorite books?

Tracy: Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger, the Outlander series by Diana Gabaldon, anything by Jane Green, and the Janet Evanovich series.

DM: What is your favorite movie?

Tracy: The Wedding Date



This is the 3rd in my butterfly girl series. It's made from an early b&w studio photo.

DM: What kind of music do you listen to?

Tracy: I'm loving John Mayer, Michael Buble and Keith Urban at the moment.

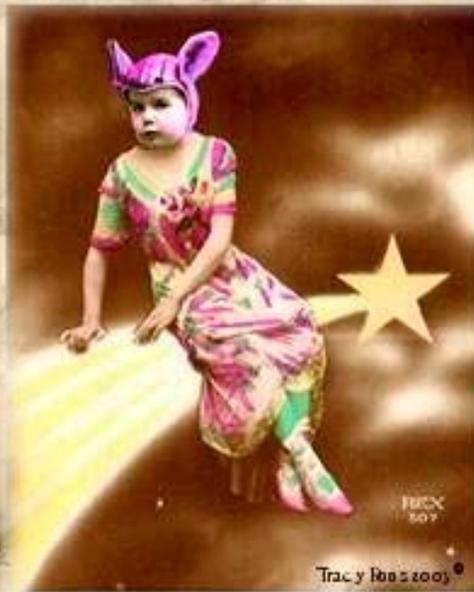
DM: Who are your favorite artists?

Tracy: That's a hard one...so I'll say at the moment my favorite contemporary artists would be Lynn Whipple and Amanda Blake.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Tracy: My mom.

Tracy Roos is a multimedia artist who unleashed the artist within herself in September 2000. Six years later, Tracy can say that her paintings and collages are in private collections around the world and her artwork has been printed in several publications! To see more of Tracy's work, visit her website <http://www.tracyroos.com/home.htm>. You can e-mail Tracy at [troos2@tracyroos.com](mailto:troos2@tracyroos.com).

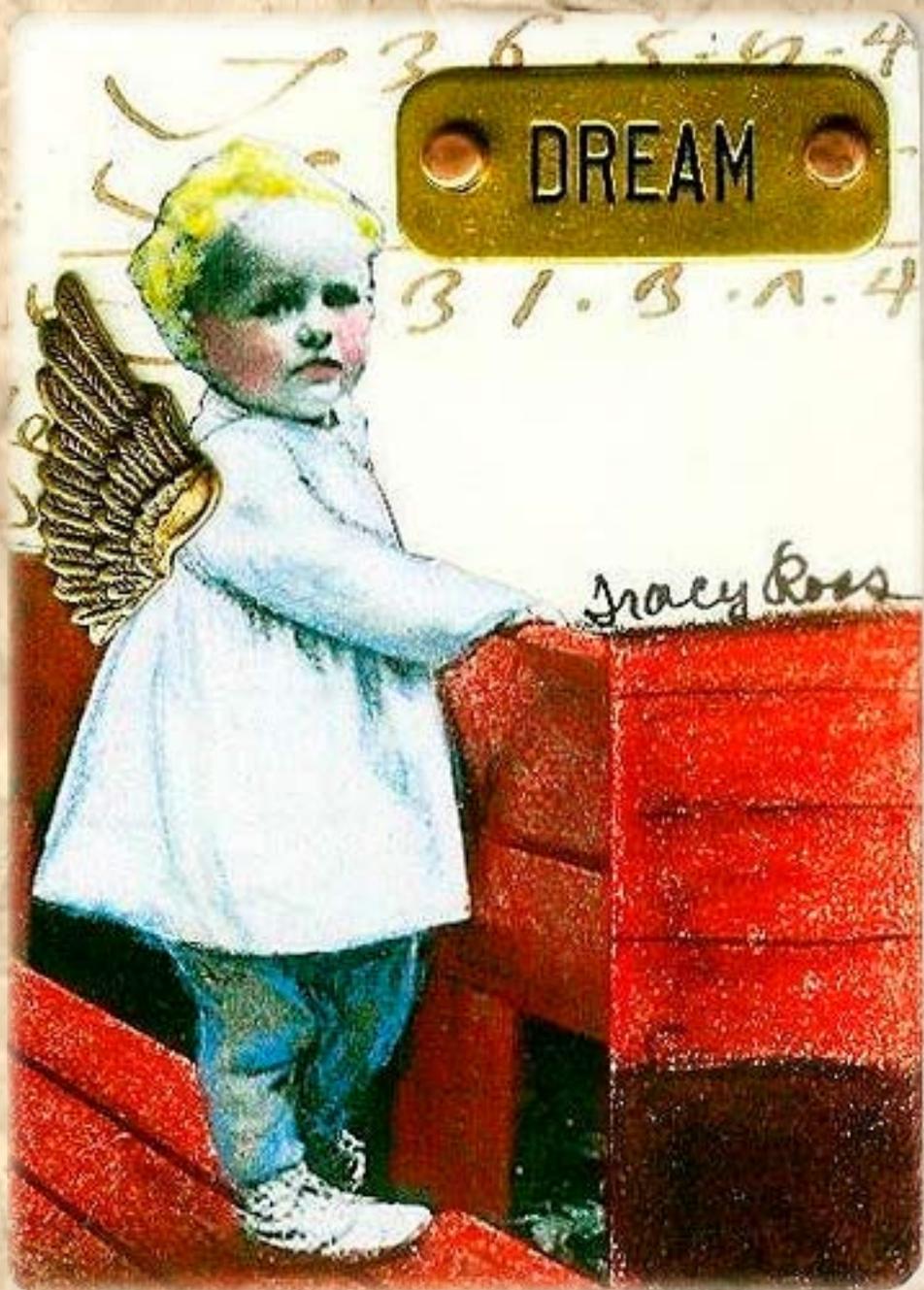


Lily Winkle



TRACY  
ROOS





# Debra Schanilec

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Deb Schanilec: Eclectic—from collage to photography to writing to Resistance Toys. You never know what's going to show up. It definitely comes from a place that's not of me, but through me.



DM: What does your studio (or space where you create) look like?

Debra: I have a space that is shared with office equipment since I work from home some of the time. There is a big piece of homasote on the wall painted Kayak Yellow where I hang everything!



DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Debra: My imagination—without it I would shrivel up and die! Other than that, the Utrecht catalog.

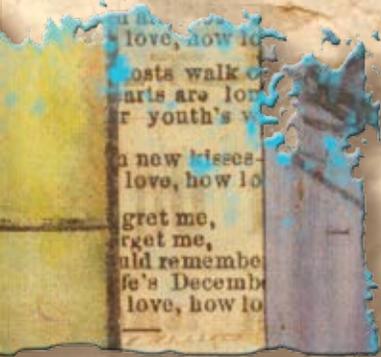
DM: What are your favorite movies?

Debra: Uplifting and/or funny as hell is what I gravitate to. Life is too short, ya' know? Favorite movies would be "Groundhog Day" and "Ferris Buehler's Day Off."



DM: What is your favorite book?

Debra: The Translucent Revolution by Arjuna Ardash.



Resistance Toys

DM: What is your favorite music?

Debra: Music by Patty Griffin.

DM: Who is your favorite artist?

Debra: That would be Denise Mihalik.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Debra: Anyone who manages to listen to the beat of his/her own drum above the din of the culture at large without succumbing to cynicism has my sincere respect.

Debra Schanilec is a tenacious entrepreneur who actively cultivates "spirituality with an attitude" - ferreting out the fun along with the gratitude. She is a big believer in the power of small steps to get you anywhere you want to go. She hopes her writing inspires and encourages, challenges you to look at things in a new way - with humor and love. A born teacher, textile and collage artist, world traveler, collector of color, and steward of a whole foods lifestyle, her creative energies are currently devoted to building her online business and raising a son with Asperger's. Contact info:

<http://www.reach-dabble-shine.com> or  
<http://reachdabbleshine.typepad.com/28yearslater/>



# Mimi Shapiro

The Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Mimi: Art is always changing - I love collage and book arts, right now I am sewing on some of my pieces. This must be an experimental phase, but I am enjoying it. I am also painting; just straight painting-no glue! Who knows where this will lead!

DM: What does your studio look like?

Mimi: I have a very messy studio and a nice library clean studio! It's great for spreading out all over the house where we live .

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Mimi: Gel medium...as glue!! I love packing tape and any kind of old magazine for collage. Sometimes I use my photographs. It's all about the mood I am in and what I want to create. It's a freeing experience to make art. It is about process - the doing and not always the finished product!

DM: What is your favorite book?

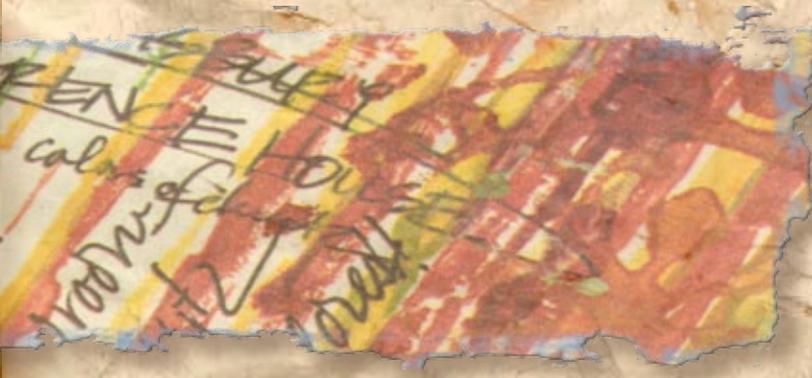
Mimi: The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle by Murakami Haruki. I found out about this book while I was reading in the ship's library after teaching a watercolor workshop on the Queen Mary while cruising to the Caribbean. When I got off the ship in St. Thomas, I went to the local book store and asked about the book. To my luck and amazement it was in stock! I spent the next few days on the return trip reading it. It was so interesting! Hard to explain - but great! It becomes harder and harder to tell what's real and what's not. The book reminds me of a collage; characters wander in and out sort of like living in someone else's dream.

DM: Do you have a favorite movie?

Mimi: This summer it is Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth , about global warming; a call to arms about fixing a fixable problem. It's not a political issue, it's a right or wrong issue - and necessary for understanding what is happening on the planet today.

DM: Favorite music?

Mimi: New Age, Arvo Parve, Estonian Symphony. I still love any and all Beth Orton - Central Reservation or Daybreaker - Trailer Park. She has great lyrics and is from the UK. If you haven't heard her, it is great working music for making art.



DM: Who are your favorite Artists?

Mimi: Since I love art - I would love to have a private meeting with Leonardo...and Kurt Schwitters; anyone from Dada. It's a way of thinking about life and the world. It is graphic and relevant - maybe even political...sort of like art that could happen with the way the world is today!

Paul Klee...and Hanne Hoch...oh my, the list could get really long, but this is a good start...maybe it's from the history of collage.... which has my real true heart!!

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Mimi: Arundhati Roy most definitely! She said - the trouble is that once you see it, you can't un-see it. And once you've seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There's no innocence. Either way, you're accountable...for the world you want to live in...

I invite all of you to join with her and work towards a world at peace.

I admire all artists and writers who are making art because they must. It is not an easy life, but so necessary to change the world that we are living in 2006. Ideas come from seeing that change is a necessary part of our existence.

Anyone who is willing to work towards change on this planet has my admiration.

Most aptly described as a visual poet, Mimi Shapiro mixes trinkets and treasures, words and images, into a powerfully evocative body of work. Each piece conveys a sense of time and place as seen through the mind's eye of memory, combining reality and fantasy to create an amazingly cohesive vision. Her deeply "connected" artistic expressions are accessible and immediate, while allowing interpretation to the viewers imagination. Her works are included in many notable collections both in the United States and internationally.

Mimi paints and draws and writes, but her first love is collage and book arts. You can view more of Mimi's work at [www.mimiartz.com](http://www.mimiartz.com)



White Dream

MIMI  
SHAPIRO



Spa



Metaphysical Still Life



Chasing Time

# Terri St. Cloud

Daily Muse: How would you describe your artwork?

Terri: Someone said recently that it was

DM: What does your studio (or space where you create) look like?

terri: Notes, pictures and sentimental goodies hang all over the place. Hearts, stars and fish hang from my ceiling. There's a criteria for hanging in my studio.....has to be something filled with love. It's mostly organized, comfortably messy, happily busy and yet peaceful and soothing. It's my safe place. I feel it the second my foot hits the carpet.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

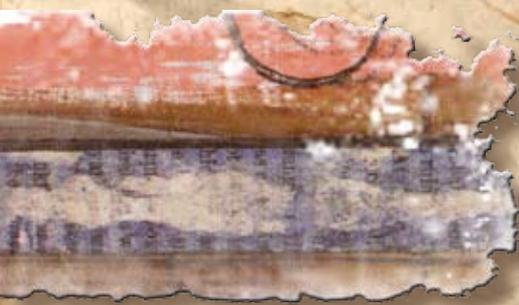
terri: Concentrated watercolors. If anyone hasn't tried these, go run out right now and get some!

DM: What is your favorite movie?

terri: I just watched a pay for view movie off the internet. It's called "The Secret." I don't think the movie was all that incredible.....but it totally reminded me of where I wanted to be with life and has affected my thoughts since seeing it. I feel like the world is mine! For that reason alone, it stands out as a favorite!



Terri St. Cloud  
**She Flew**



DM: Whom do you most admire?

terri: My kids. No doubt about it. They are the most amazing people I know. They mix beauty, passion, honesty, bravery, craziness, fun and freedom all together and remind me of who I can be.



Languages

terri st. cloud is a woman heading down a path to find the real in her life, her belief in herself, and the passion that comes with these discoveries. Come visit her at <http://www.bonesigharts.com> or in The Shoppes of Artella at [www.artellawordsandart.com/TerriUrban.html](http://www.artellawordsandart.com/TerriUrban.html). And look for her "bone sigh" feature in The Calmics section of The Artella Daily Muse every Saturday!

If you need more art for terri, you can go to her Shoppes page (above) to grab some more.



Believe



# Janice Taylor

DM: How would you describe your art?

Janice: I am our country's premiere Weight Loss Artist (I invented the phrase!)

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art and why?

Janice: I have many wonderful pieces of art hanging on my 'four walls,' and each and every piece has a story to it. But I have to say that there is one piece that is hung in a safe corner of my studio that has more meaning than any other piece could possibly have. It is called "Corporate Man." My son made it from found metal scraps and rubber. What could possibly have more meaning than a great piece of art made by and given to me by my son, Josh.

DM: What does your studio look like?

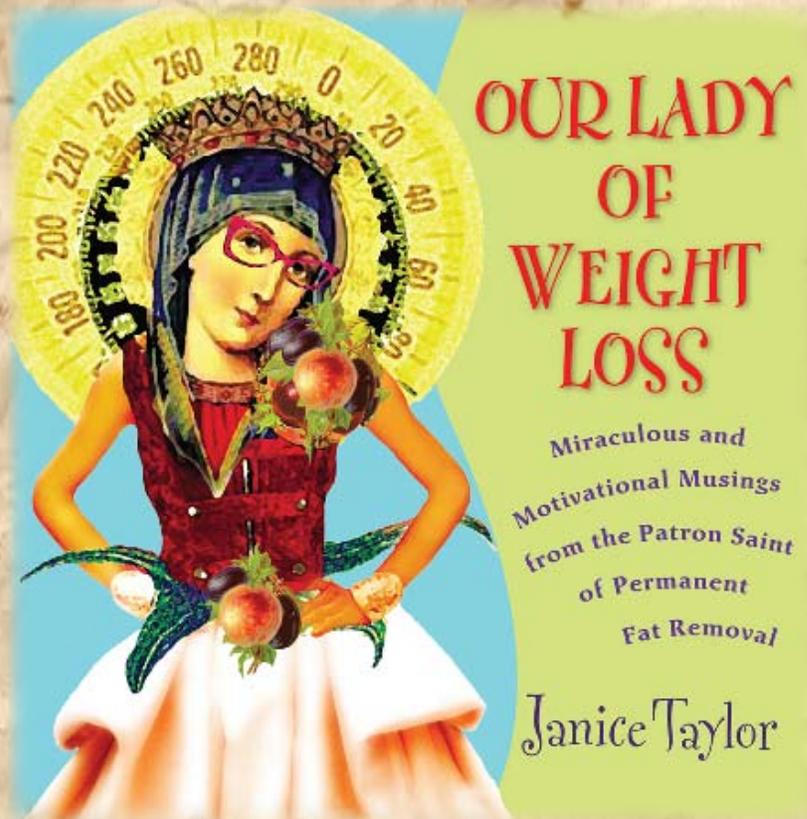
Janice: I spend just about all my time in my studio. The walls are an amazing shade of a deep periwinkle. There are white shelves and steel drawers across one wall that hold almost all my supplies (I am currently spilling out and need to regroup!). And my work station and computer area are comprised of a fabulous white L-shaped desk. Most importantly, there's a feng shui water fountain bubbling away in my 'fame/money' corner!!!!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Janice: Elmer's glue. I buy it in gallon quantities. I decoupage with it, collage with it and I have to say, when there's glue all over your hands, it's difficult to eat!

DM: What is your favorite book?

Janice: I hope this doesn't sound too ego-centric, but my favorite book is my own - Our Lady of Weight Loss □ Miraculous and Motivational Musings from the Patron Saint of Permanent Fat Removal. It's like asking ... who's your favorite kid? MINE!



DM: Do you have a favorite movie?

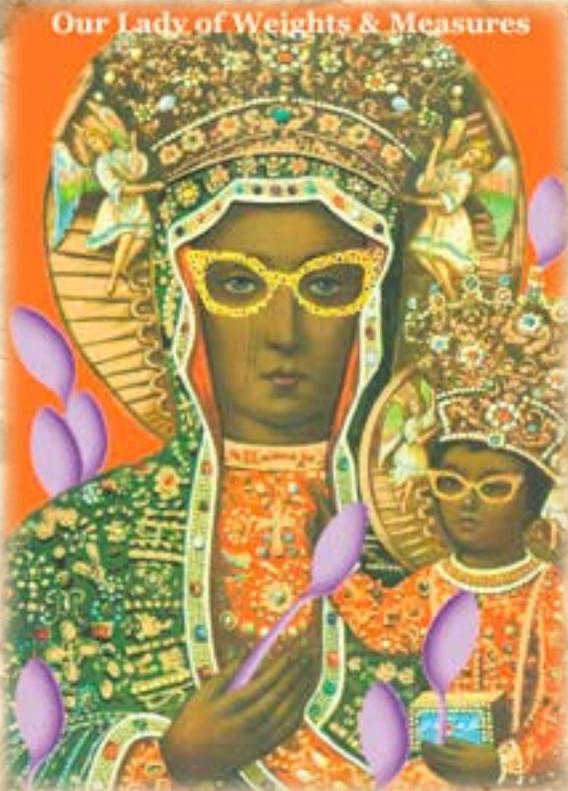
Janice: I love romance and Moonstruck is one of my favorite movies. I am working on getting together some friends to re-enact the breakfast scene. Olympia Dukakis is making oatmeal and eggs ... and the entire cast is waiting for Johnny Cammarata to show. When I go for a hair cut, I tell my guy, please make me look like Cher from the '80s. I don't care how out of style I might be. High and Big, please!

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Janice: Corny as it might sound, my mother. She's 90 years old and is still truckin' ... well - drivin' herself around town. She taught me everything I know about color. Each and every meal came with a discourse on how to make the plate pretty and why it would be very dull if it were all beige. She said a mouthful!!! How dull if it were all beige!

Spread the word (and the icing!)

Janice Taylor, weight loss coach, weight loss artist, e-publisher of the Kick in the Tush Club and author of Our Lady of Weight Loss □ Miraculous and Motivational Musings from the Patron Saint of Permanent Fat Removal can be reached at [www.OurLadyofWeightLoss.com](http://www.OurLadyofWeightLoss.com)



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Divine Dinnerware



You May Never Lick Cake

# Chris Tessnear

Artella Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Chris Tessnear: "Anything goes" Mixed Media, including but not limited to, painting, collage, drawing and digital.

ADM: What is your favorite piece of your own artwork, and why?

Chris: The pieces from my series, Her..., that I've been working on for the past year. I have combined photos of my mother, grandmothers, mother in law, aunts and friends into funky collages on paper, canvas, etc along with phrases that describe the woman in the image. It is my belief that women are extremely important in who each person becomes, whether it be their own mother, best friend, teacher, or whomever. I am including a couple of those images.

ADM: What does your creative space look like?

Chris: Actually, my space is in transition once again. I began on the kitchen table, about 15 years ago, then put a drawing table in a spare room, and now am redoing that room around a gigantic drafting table that was given to me by an artist who moved and didn't want to take it with her. (Actually, it began as a child sitting at my chalk board desk with crayons and coloring books. I have always loved crayons and the freshness of a new box and the endless possibilities always made me happy. It still does). I am currently reorganizing everything into drawers, boxes, and baskets so I can actually find what I want when I want it. However, I must admit, just picking up whatever is handy has contributed to my style of "anything goes".

ADM: What are your favorite books?

Chris: There are so many. I love Nicholas Sparks' novels and have them all, but I also enjoy reading art books, everything from "how to" to inspirational. HOW TO MARRY YOUR MUSE by Jan Phillips is one of my absolute favorites.

ADM: How about movies?

Chris: I watch all kinds of movies. My husband and I watch movies most weekends and between us we cover everything from horror to drama to comedy to romance. GHOST, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, MOONSTRUCK, BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY, FRIDA, and SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE are among my most favorites. Again, I listen to lots of different music but really enjoy jazz.





ADM: And favorite artists?

Chris: Where to begin, I have so many favorite artists. Andrew Wyeth has always inspired me but right now I am really struck by Claudine Helmuth and Lynn Perella. More personally, I am inspired by many local artists: Anne Godfrey, Nancy Nieves, Carol Lowry and Anne Cowie.

ADM: Whom do you most admire?

Chris: I truly admire my almost 22 year old son, Matthew, who is a senior in college. He is a journalism major and has already worked for his college newspaper and 3 different newspapers in North Carolina and Florida. He is already realizing his dreams rather than waiting until he's in midlife like his mother. Matthew is also the sweetest most gentle person you could ever meet and his faith is a guiding force in his life. I also admire my husband, Terry, of 26 years and he has supported my art in so many ways you cannot even fathom.

A school teacher by trade, Chris Tessnear has drawn and colored most of her life. She began serious study of watercolor and drawing in 1990 with Anne Godfrey. She continued to take classes, study on her own and got involved with the local arts organizations and opportunities. She also helped to found and manage a local non-profit art gallery and instructional center, Art 1 in Gastonia for 5 years.

Chris works in watercolor, mixed media and is obsessed with collage and altered art. She enjoys all subject matter and often works in series. Making devotional booklets and note cards on her computer from her art is part of the joy and mission she considers her art to be, giving most of them away. She does have work for sell at several local shops (Gaston County Art and History Museum, Dallas, NC; Clay Cafe, Gastonia, NC; Blue Moon Gallery, Cliffside, NC; and Alta Vista Gallery, Valle Crucis, NC.

Having studied with many local artists and internationally known artists such as John Brady, Steve Jordan, Rick Chin, and Frank Webb, Chris has enjoyed a variety of experiences to expand her style and techniques.

Currently, Chris is teaching at Gaston School of the Arts and for Explore Beyond School (Monart Method) for school age children. She also is taking art classes at Gaston College to add art to her teaching license.

Working on a new body of work called "Her.." which features women in their lives and a collaborative round robin journal on the them of Woman is her current activity.

Chris allows the creative process to dominate not always expecting a finished piece worthy of framing but an aid in the continuing process of growing and expanding her abilities. She enjoys the simple process of child-like creating, rejoicing when the end product does turnout a keeper.

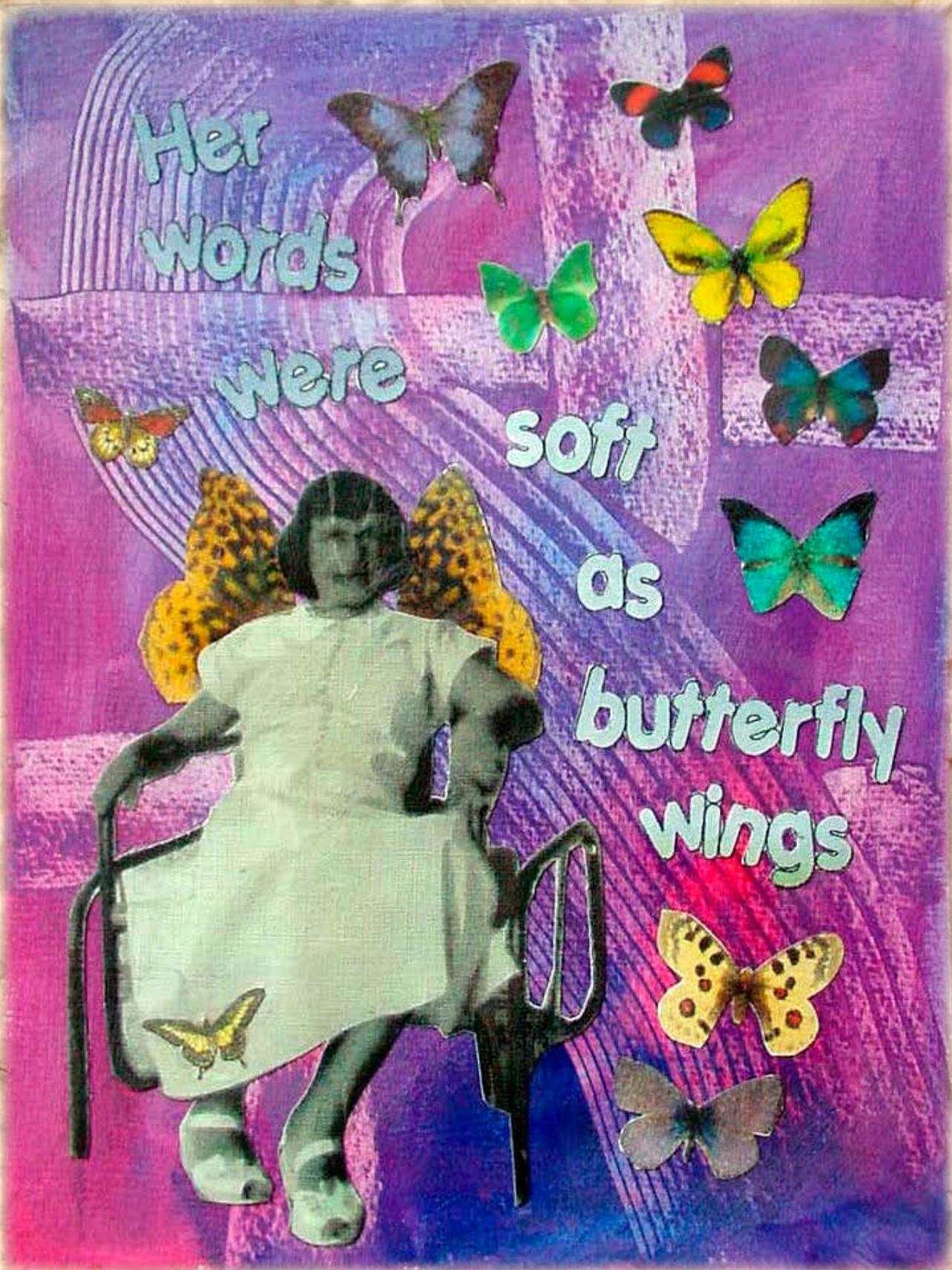
Chris is married 26 years to Terry and has one son, Matthew, who is in college.

Currently, she has work in local galleries and shops, as well as Artella. She is also happy to say she has art pieces in Somerset Studios, July-August issue 2006, and SS Gallery, summer 2006 issue.

Her work can be seen at the following sites:

<http://www.artellawordsandart.com/ChrisTessnear.html>  
<http://www.gastoncountyartguild.com/tessnear.html>  
<http://creativeinspirations.blogspot.com/>

CHRIS  
TESSNEAR





# Eugenia Toledo-Keyser

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Eugenia: My art is a way of looking for hidden messages in things; a way of knowing and honoring our identities and recognizing our interdependencies.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art and why?

Eugenia: My favorite piece of art is a collaborative collage I did with Sylvia Luna, great artist and teacher. It is the result a long project, a collaborative project, but it is a very luminous piece, a recollection of memories.

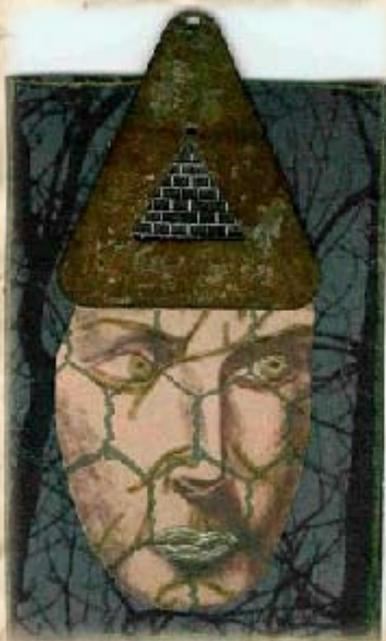
Also some of my poems are pretty special to me. And one of my books of poems (in Spanish) called "Architecture of absences," recently published in Spain.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Eugenia: My studio is a cozy room in the basement of our house. The walls are of pine wood, decorated with art work, a desk with papers, paints, books and the computer. My house is my studio, my continent. My books are all over..

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Eugenia: I love color pencils since I was a child. They are very important to me, I go everywhere with them.



Scarface -  
Prison of the Mind



DM: What is your favorite book?

Eugenia: My favorite book is the novel written by the Spanish author Perez-Revere called The Painter of Battles (El pintor de batallas). A crucial book, I think. It is about a war photographer that witnessed most of the wars in the Twentieth Century and now he tries to make sense or understand the chaos of the world and the loss of a woman he cannot forget. Great book, pretty deep.

DM: What are your favorite movies?

Eugenia: I have many favorite movies, like THE WHITE CONDESSA, THE MESSENGER, etc. I like action, adventures, love stories, historic movies, all of them. I think the cinema is a great art medium.

DM: What music do you like?

Eugenia: I love to listen to Mercedes SOSA, an Argentinean musician and singer about my age. Oldies, too, are great to listen while you work.

DM: Do you have favorite artists?

Eugenia: At the present moment, my friend Kathleen McHugh from Seattle, Nancy Scheinman, and Maggie Taylor, also, and Carmen Aldunate from Chile.

Eugenia Toledo-Keyser is a language teacher, writes poetry, and loves to combine art and words. She is from Chile and likes to travel alot. Email her at <mailto:ekkeyser@comcast.net>.



EUGENIA  
TOLEDO-  
KEYSER



Dance to the Light of the World



Shall We Dance - Artist Trading Card



Mosque

# John Vanderbrooke

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

John: Warm wax wonderment might cover a description of encaustic painting.

DM: Any other favorite?

John: Another piece is Crystal Fountain; my first attempt to paint on a mirror. Since this one, I have graduated to a very large size and love the effect. Then the "remembering" piece was from my experimenting with overlaying wax onto digital surfaces. This had a haunting quality as well. This process of overlays also works well with rubber stamps.

DM: What does your studio look like?

John : I'm afraid my studio looks very artist-garret-like as it is under the gallery I belong to (Gallery North) where I rent out the basement space. A big barn door affair opens up for nice summer days, but with winter, the heater goes on and it is on the cool side. It is a great place to make a mess and very often I end up there in the middle of the night when the muse moves. I also teach classes there as well as other locations in the area.



DM: What art supply can you not live without?

John: Well it is wax, wax, wax, for me. I just love the experience of the melting process as it transforms into magical movement that freeze when it cools into fantastic forms.

John was raised in Ashland, Wisconsin. He sailed on Ore Boats after high school and then after college was employed at the NYSE. His next job was municipal bond trading in NY and San Francisco. Insurance, Real Estate, and Tax Preparation rounded out the business side prior to starting his own business, Sound Laser. John ran this business for 10 years in Shoreline. Art always came in second until he sold the company.

Media of oils, acrylics, jewelry, silk painting, sand blasting and egg carving, to name a few, preceded his introduction to Encaustics. It was melted wax that caught him and spun him around 180 degrees, thus the name of his studio, Studio 180. Dreaming up different ways to work with melted wax seems to be second nature.

John has taught classes in Encaustics from Bellingham to as far south as Green Valley, Arizona. After a class is over students can obtain the imported wax, paper, tools and educational materials that are imported from the Netherlands.

Email: [studiol80waxart@aol.com](mailto:studiol80waxart@aol.com)

Web: [encausticart.homestead.com/index.html](http://encausticart.homestead.com/index.html)

8506 Main St Unit C102  
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Crystal Place

JOHN  
VANDERBROOKE



Remembering



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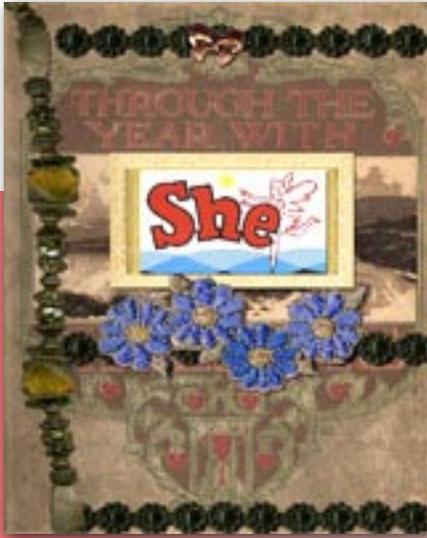
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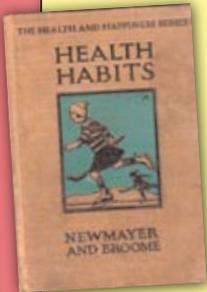
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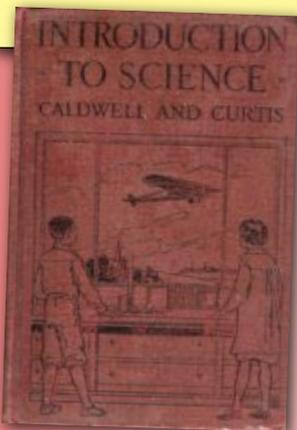


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*- Julie Burger*

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*- Barb Starrenburg*



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# Violette

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Violette: I would say that my art is inspirational, whimsical, juicy and colourful!

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art and why?

Violette: Oh gosh.....I can't really say I have a favourite piece of art. That is sort of like asking which of your children do you love best?? I love them all.....for different reasons. My visual journaling pages are near and dear to my heart because they are much more than illustrations.....they are my heart and soul manifesting into reality. They let me know where and how I'm doing on my journey.....what is happening emotionally and what I might have to look at in order to move forward.

DM: What does your studio look like?

Violette: I create in several places. I actually have a detached studio, which I'm sure is every artist's dream come true. I used the studio when I'm doing messy things like papier mache or if I'm teaching art to others. Generally I use it to store all of my materials which I have amassed over the years.

My kitchen counter is usually where I create the most since I illustrate and visual journal more than anything these days. My entire house is inspiring since it's an external expression of my inner self. The house has appeared on several TV shows.....Weird Homes being one of them. The kitchen is very colourful and happy. There is all kinds of personal artwork adorning the walls; papier mache masks, paintings, mosaics on the backsplash, glitter on the counters, etc.

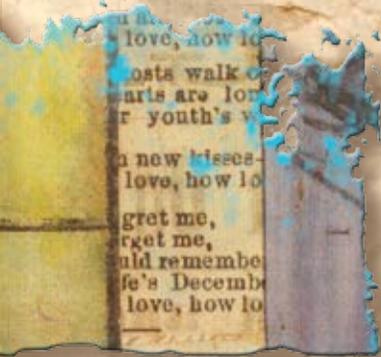
How can I not be inspired to create in an environment like this??? Impossible!

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Violette: I can't live without my Micron pens and my twinkling H20's. Since I'm a freak about anything glittery I've found the shimmery quality of H20's to be right up my alley for adding that touch of magic to my illustrations and visual journaling pages.

DM: What are your favorite books?

Violette: Oh Gosh.....if you came to my home and saw my extensive library of art books you would gasp! I love Julia Cameron's The Artist's Way, All of the Sark books - Inspiration Sandwich, Creative Companion, Living Juicy, Succulent Wild Woman ,etc., Sabrina Ward Harrison's Spilling Open, Kathy Murillo Cano's books, Danny Gregory's Creative License, Dan Price's Moonlight Chronicles, The 12 Secrets of Highly Creative Women by McMeekin, Marry your Muse by Jan Phillips, A Whack on the Side of the Head and A Kick in the Seat of the Pants by Roger van Oech, Where Women Create by Jo Packham, The Journey is the Destination by Dan Eldon, I Shock Myself by Beatrice Wood, The Alchemist by Paul Ceulo, Conversations with God by Neale Donald Walsch, Create your Own Reality by Seth, Something More, Living with Joy by Sanaya Roman, Living Out Loud by Keri Smith, The Call , the Invitation and The Dance by Oriah, The Lost Soul Companion by Susan Brackney, New Techniques for Wearable Art by Rice-Freeman Zachary, The Seat of the Soul by Gary Zukav.



Globe

DM: What music do you love?

Violette: Enya, Gypsy Kings, Jesse Cooke, Dido, Sam Roberts, Blue Rodeo, REM, Great Big Sea, some old classic rock stuff, Fleetwood Mac, Arlo Guthrie, Gordon Lightfoot, Cat Stevens, Bryan Adams, new agey yoga type music, Celtic music, classical stuff such as Vivaldi, Mozart etc.

DM: Any favorite movies?

Violette: Benny and Joon, Field of Dreams, ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Conversations with God, What Dreams may Come, Sixth Sense, American Beauty.

DM: How about your favorite artists?

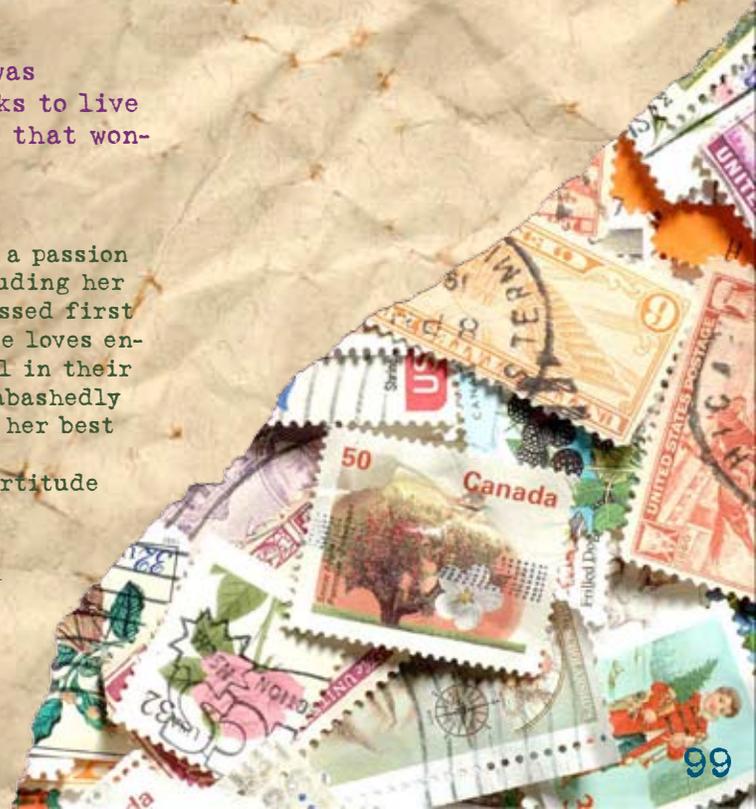
Violette: SARK, Picasso, Peter Max, Van Gogh, Danny Gregory, Dan Price, Brian Andreas (the Story People).

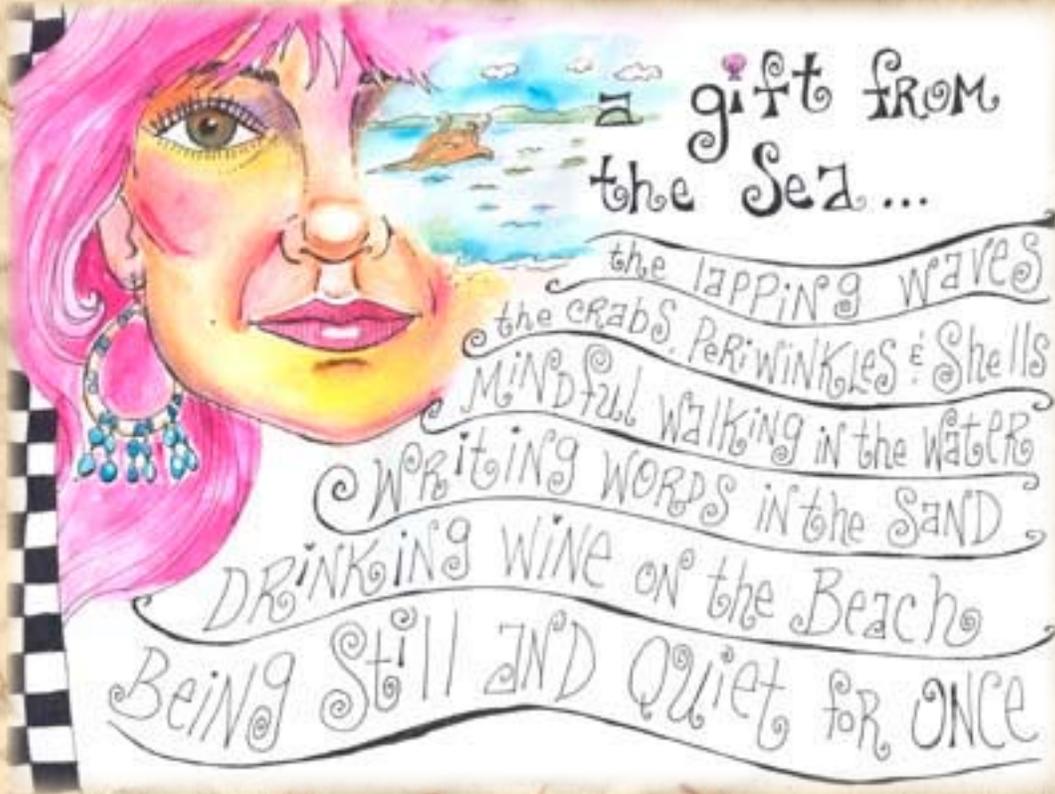
Violette: Whom do you most admire?

DM: Well one of my first inspirations artistically was SARK.....she gave me permission through her books to live life out loud, be juicy and to embrace who I am. For that wonderful gift I am most grateful!!

Violette was born in Casablanca, Morocco in 1954. She has a passion for bringing creativity into everything she touches including her art, home, van, clothing and parties! Since she has witnessed first hand the healing qualities of the creation of art Violette loves encouraging others to access that and increase the joy level in their lives. She lives her life OUT LOUD, authentically and unabashedly and by doing so inspires others to do the same! Sometimes her best advice is to "Let Silly in!". You can view some of her work in Artella, Creativity Portal (online), Artitude Zine, Cloth Paper Scissors, Somerset Studios etc.

You can check out her art and blog at <http://www.violette.ca/blog.html> and view her journal pages here <http://www.flickr.com/photos/19815858@N00/>





Gift of the Sea - Journal Page

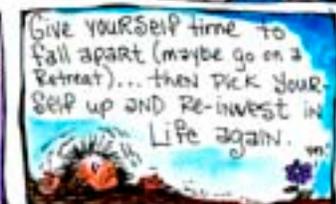
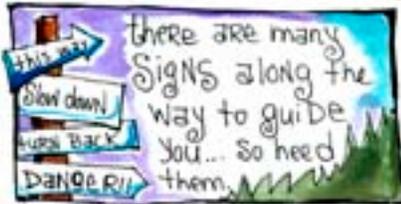
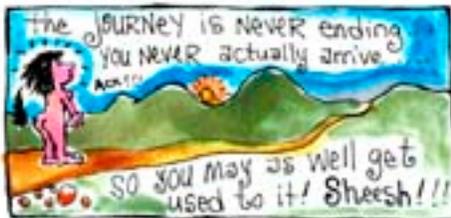
VIOLETTE

# Going thru the MOTIONS

Notes to MYSELF...



Nature is always giving us clues about What's IMPORTANT!



Motions

# Tammy Vitale

Daily Muse: How would you describe your art?

Tammy: The theme that runs through all of my art is an honoring of the divine feminine - that place in each of us that is holy and connected to something bigger than our individual body and ego.

DM: What is your favorite piece of your own art, and why?

Tammy: My art is like having children - I can't honestly say I have a favorite because this afternoon I might go into the studio and make something I'm totally in love with. But if I have to choose, I'd pick "Lilith," a raku torso just because raku is so ephemeral - one must trust the process of fire and heat and smoke and flames and be patient to see what it brings. "Lilith" was one of my first raku pieces and an early torso and I don't know that I've made anything technically better or more aesthetically pleasing since I made her, although my raku piece, "Fallen Angel," is a close second. I guess it's the process of raku, which I have a long way to go to master (does anyone ever master heat and smoke and flame?).... it has a total appeal for my impetuous Aries nature!

DM: What does your studio look like?

Tammy: Currently it's my unfinished basement and half of a two car garage. In the winter I wear an overcoat to work and have to quit periodically to go warm my hands under water.

DM: What art supply can you not live without?

Tammy: Clay

DM: What is your favorite book?

Tammy: I'm a book fiend. I love This Time I Dance by Tama Kieves which I discovered in the recommended book section of Artella, and which I have read at least 5 times not counting the pick up and browse. I regularly recommend this book to all my friends - artist or otherwise.



Studio workbench  
with word tiles

Other art favorites include Julia Cameron's Artist's Way (of course), and her book Walking in the World. I like Art and Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Art-Making by David Bayles and Ted Orland: "Nature places a simple constraint on those who leave the flock to go their own way: they get eaten. In society it's a bit more complicated....In making art you court the unknown, and with it the paranoia of those who fear what change might bring."

I like Soul Collage: An Intuitive Collage Process for Individuals and Groups by Seena B. Frost because it teases out the artist in everyone and women love the process.

Women Who Run with the Wolves is seminal in my understanding of myself and my process and in encouraging me to keep going on (Clarissa Pinkola-Estes) and is the one book I'd have if I could have no others.

I could go on, but won't. It would take all day.

DM: Whom do you most admire?

Tammy: People who go on in the face of enormous odds, who don't necessarily get famous (in fact, "famous" seems to stop the creative process in its tracks), but who love what they do, share that love with everyone they come in contact with, trust the process of unfolding and keep on going along the path their heart, not their head, sets - blazing a new path if necessary (usually).

Tammy has been working in clay full-time for 4 years. She is a hand builder using free form clay and clay slabs as the basis of her work. Much of her work is one-of-a-kind, although she does make casts from the more intricate original tiles. She took a class at Prince George's Community College (MD) in 1987 and fell in love with the medium, and in 2004 took a one week intensive with Peter King of Pensacola, FLA, learning to make large-scale, architectural clay murals. Her mural, Chesapeake, made for the town of North Beach in 2005, was featured on the cover of Calvert Monthly August 2006. She is represented by boutiques, shops and galleries from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina (see website for particulars). web: [www.TamsOriginals.com](http://www.TamsOriginals.com); blog: [www.TammyVitale.com](http://www.TammyVitale.com) (new work is often posted there between quarterly web updates). You can contact Tammy at: [Tam@TamsOriginals.com](mailto:Tam@TamsOriginals.com)

TAMMY  
VITALE



Lileth Torso



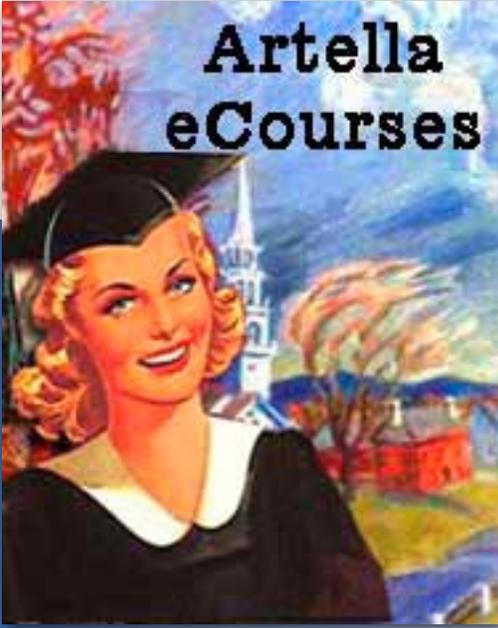
Fallen Angel Torso



Retro Torso

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- Sally Visotski



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- soren mason temple

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- Patricia Shook



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Joyful Art Projects to  
Change Your Life

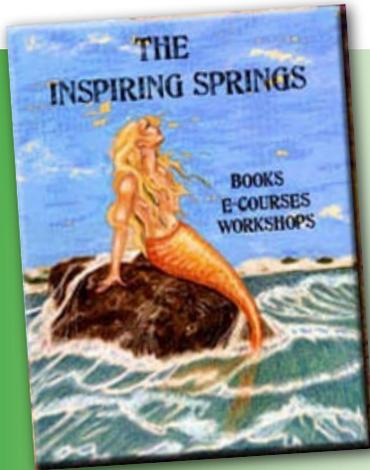


## Writes &



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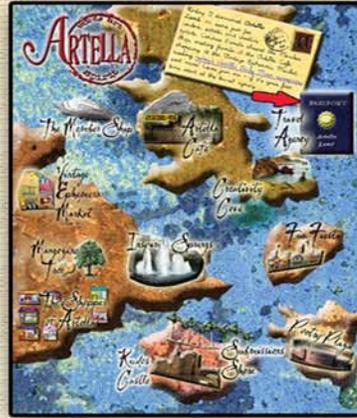
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*"Artella is a creative fountain; the site just vibrates with joyful creative expression."*

- SARK, bestselling author and artist

*"I don't know why Artella hasn't been nominated for a Pulitzer yet...seriously, Artella has changed the scope of art and words forever."* - Jill Badonsky, author, *The Nine Modern Day Muses* (and a Bodyguard)

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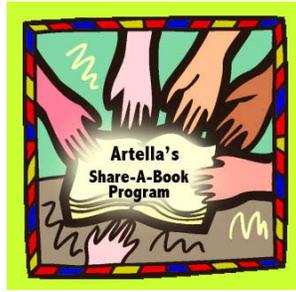
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