

# Concepts ...

## Student News & Notes – Spring 2022

Creativity using the power of the sun, and some plastic lace. Soooo simple!

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Hi Fellow Teachers and Fabric Enthusiasts,

As another season rolls around, let's turn our thoughts to playing in the sun – with all sorts of 'found objects' for designing the most amazing fabrics. That's what I did for my project in *Embellish* magazine (issue #51), due to hit the shelves in September – but running a couple of weeks late, I'm told. Just another casualty of the Covid delays and complications now part of our lives. The exciting news is that once again an image from my project has made the front cover. If I may be a little proud please, that's four front covers from the fifteen magazines in which my projects have appeared since 2017. THANK YOU, editor Lynda, for your faith in my contributions!

Theme for the current *Embellish* issue is "Lace". As usual I had lots of fun with it. I hope you will too. For the Summer edition, the topic is "Maldives". Yes you guessed it, I had a super time preparing that one too !!! But you'll just have to be patient until December to read it. It's very summery! Then with more themes on the notice board to keep my projects flowing until Autumn 2024, there'll be lots of writing to keep me busy, and all of us creating happily!

**A behind the scenes look at our very hands-on Genesis Creations business ...** Most of you will be aware that our Liquid Radiance colours arrive here in bulk and are bottled and labelled in my Studio. You've also probably read at some stage



The "DRAWING BOARD" for our FLAT PAINTS, HAND MADE by ME

that some of our accessories have been designed at my request for us and that other items in our range are specially chosen by me as 'the right tools for the job', and purchased through Australian businesses. All true! But did you know that our Flat paints are now made here too, by me? Twenty-three years ago these paints were formulated by our manufacturers exclusively for us – soft base cold cure, at my request – and the only paint of its kind made in Australia. We needed to order in large quantities from our paint makers, and this became uneconomical for our business. Some paints were more than three years old before they left our shelves to go to you, and I wasn't happy about that. I wanted them fresh at all times, and so should you. It was time for me to ask the question: "Hey guys, could I make the Flats myself? Would you be able to make me a paint base and colourants separately? Would I then be able to put them together to make up small batches as required?" It was an interesting time, with slight adjustments to the 'recipe' and patient tutoring from the boys so I could do it to perfectly.

In 2016 my journey into paint making began with some basic equipment and a set of ultra-sensitive scales (mmmm, I weigh .25 of a gram just by walking past them). Then came the colour tweaking and deciding on the final colour range. The paint was then applied to a variety of fabrics, both knits and woven – cotton, polycotton, polyester, silk – and cut into strips for wash testing and 'curing time' – one wash, two washes, three, four, and so on while checking against the original unwashed strip after each wash. It was a marathon labour of love, and I can CONFIRM that these paints really ARE permanent in any fabric whatsoever!

**Flat paints will feature in our Zoom workshops in October:**

- Using Colour to Create Shape (2 & 4 Oct) - see next page for more information

**BOOK NOW – phone 0418 771 808, or email me.**



THE END RESULT

### TO PURCHASE YOUR MAGAZINES

- Subscribe via the girls at Artwear Publications
  - Purchase from us with your order (to save separate postage) - \$11.00
  - Hunt them down in your local newsagent - \$11.50 I think
- BACK ISSUES with MY PROJECTS AVAILABLE from US. Please ask.**

## Zoom Workshop Programs (aka Web Workshops or WWs) ... September till November 2022 ...

- **PDs for Textiles and Art Teachers** – FREE to attend - Sunday 11 and Tuesday 13 September: 10 am Basics, and 2 pm Extensions [Brisbane times]. This is my Zoom version of the HEIAQ Regional program presented across Qld before Covid hit us, and enthusiastically received by those who participated; and have done so in my PDs ever since. Each session is demo style, approx 90 minutes in duration. Numbers are limited for best interaction during our discussions. **REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL: phone 0418 771 808, or email me.**
- **“In Focus” WWs – Using Colour to Create Shape** – Sun 2 and Tue 4 October: Working with our Flat paints to learn my simple rules for achieving reality in your painted subjects. No artistic skills required! Three to four hour prac, starting at 10 am each day.
- **“In Focus” WWs – Stencilling? Way More than Just Stencilling!** – October: Sun 23 at 2 pm & Tue 25 at 10 am - demo-style workshop. Let's really expand your creativity using this very versatile equipment!

## Hands-On Workshops ... October ... in my Toowoomba Studio ... 13 till 19 October ...

These workshops are already booked out, but I have started a waiting list in case people who have registered are unable to attend closer to the time. You never know what is going to happen during these Covid times! So for those of you eager to get started into our fabric designing skills with Liquid Radiance, the first three days of the October program will be repeated in November, from 9.30 am till 4 pm each day:

- Fri 4 Nov – Fabulous Fabrics: Basics and Beyond
- Sat 5 Nov – Fabulous Fabrics: Big and Beautiful
- Sun 6 Nov – Understanding Fabric Art

For full details of these programs, please check the Events page of my website, or phone me and I'll email it to you.



## Feature Event ... Toowoomba Quilters' Exhibition ... Sat 17 till Fri 23 Sept ...

NEW VENUE – “The Court”, Toowoomba Community Baptist Church, 100 Glenvale Road, Toowoomba.

TIMES – 9 am till 4.30 pm from Saturday till Thursday, closing at 2 pm Friday.

This magnificent display of quilts from our local girls (and guys) is not to be missed. I'm delighted to be back with a display and demonstrations for the entire week. See my projects from *Embellish* magazines, and lots more; and talk to me about the skills you'd like to learn. I'll have products and hand-coloured fabrics for sale too. The event is held during our Carnival of Flowers, so be sure to visit the local parks and gardens while you're in town.

## Making the Most of our Painting

### Techniques - Mop-Ups to the Max! Don't EVER Waste a Drop of Colour !!!

After a recent colouring binge, I had this murky brownish puddle left on my board! Too good to waste, I grabbed a calico bag and simply plopped it flat into that puddle. The bag was dry, so the colour made an interesting shape as it spread, but needed help with a few extra bits of colour. These I scribbled on from my maxi dispenser bottles (you know, the ones I mix in the pop-top water bottles, about 1 part Liquid Radiance concentrate to 15 or 20 parts water), then helped them to



spread more easily by lightly spraying them with water. Things did get a bit sloppy during all this working – and we know the 'Excess / Enemy' rule eh? – so I blotted the fabric with a couple of pieces of dry cotton. **The result?** A bag and two great pieces of fabric to do something with !!! **The bag?** Abstract shapes using Water Soluble Resist and dried inside, not in the sun. **The fabrics?** Heliography technique (sun printing) using an unrolled plastic peg bag and plastic lace to cover the fabrics. These two were popped out in the sun till dry.

FINISHING OFF: When dry, the bag was rinsed – three times - to remove the resist. The plastic

was taken off the fabric pieces. All items were ironed to maximise the light and colourfastness of the colours, and to soften / destress the fibres. The images now tell the rest of the story.

*On the home front ... I'm happily preparing myself for partial knee replacements (two at once!) at the end of November. Physio is started, and exercises are under way. December will then be 'time out' for recuperation and follow-up – but my brain will still work. I shall be as close as the phone or emails as usual! Happy creating in this busy lead-up to Christmas ...*



*Anne*

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