

## **Beth Andrews**

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### **Artist Statement**

Beth Andrews is a native North Carolinian with roots in the Piedmont and northwestern mountains which reach back to the 1700s. At age 10, during extended hospital stays, she was given an oil painting set and made the decision to become an artist. Her experience of the healing benefits of making art led to a life-long interest in the arts for health movement.

Andrews received a Fine Arts degree in Painting and Printmaking (with a secondary emphasis in pottery and design) from UNC-Greensboro. After graduating, she worked as a resident artist for the NC Arts Council "*Third Century Artists*" program—a visiting artist program which placed artists in communities across the state to build on local arts resources and develop new initiatives. Over three years and in three Piedmont counties, she worked with adults and children creating murals in the schools, building a community pottery program and teaching drawing, painting, and pottery. The conclusion of this program was a group exhibit at the NC Museum of Art.

For over 30 years, she worked as a graphic designer and illustrator. After many years of feeling pulled by two opposite worlds (fine art and commercial art) she began to integrate elements from both, loving the juxtaposition of opposites. She integrates collage with traditional painting or drawing, and abstract elements alongside realistic ones. This has led to a freedom to incorporate everything she loves instead of feeling she has to limit her focus to one style or medium. She has received numerous awards in juried exhibits. In 2004, she moved to the mountains of NC and refocused her attention on painting and exhibiting. Another move took place when a studio became available at the Yadkin Cultural Arts Center in Yadkinville, NC. She has been painting, teaching and keeping open studio hours there since 2018.

### **Presentation focus and learning aspects of the demonstration**

Gel Plate Printing: Unleash your creativity and intuition

Learn how to create one-of-a kind, hand printed papers using a Gel Plate. Whether you are a beginner or an experience artist, this process can open up your creativity and spark a more intuitive approach to art making. We will cover basics of using a gel plate to create patterns, textures, shapes and interesting impressions that can be used in collages and mixed media as well as more traditional painting styles. Acrylic paints are the primary medium used on a gel plate, but it is possible to also use pastels, acrylic markers, and to a certain degree, watercolor.

### **Supply List Used for Gel Plate Demonstration:**

Gelli Plate (available at Cheap Joes or on Amazon) Approx. \$27

Soft Rubber Brayer (I prefer Speedball, 4" or 6") around \$15

Acrylic paints (any kind, I prefer fluid acrylic paints)

Acrylic Matte Medium (to adhere papers to strata)

Papers (unwaxed deli paper, book pages, tissue paper, parchment paper, watercolor paper, rice paper...even printer/copy paper)

Stencils and masks (assorted kinds and shapes)

Tools for markmaking (lids, bubble wrap, silicon shapers and mark making tools [look through your recycle pile)

Assorted brushes and sizes

Catalyst tool (to smooth paper help adhere paper to strata)

Substrate (Cradled wood panels, heavy weight watercolor paper, mixed media paper, canvas boards, etc)

Gesso (to prepare substrate for collage or paper)