

HANDMADE WATERCOLOR GREETING CARDS

with Gold Leaf & Elegant Embellishments

Kim Brandon-Watson • Art-A-Fair, Laguna Beach • All Materials Included

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:15 – 10:30 Welcome & Overview

What we're making today

- Introductions — name and what occasion you'd love a card for
- View example cards — ornaments, botanicals, geometric designs
- What's available and how to use it
- The goal: leave with 5–7 beautiful cards you made yourself

10:30 – 11:00 Full Demo — One Card Start to Finish

Watch the complete sequence before you begin

- Step 1: Choose and position your stencil on the card blank-outline lightly with pencil
- Step 2: Fill stencil shapes with watercolor — minimal water, more pigment
- Step 3: Let watercolor dry 5–7 minutes
- Step 4: Draw glue pen lines where gold leaf will go — let go tacky 3–5 min
- Step 5: Press gold leaf over glue lines, burnish gently, brush off excess
- Step 6: Place rhinestones while glue is still slightly tacky
- Step 7: Outline elements with fine liner pen if desired
- Step 8: Stamp your word (Thank You, Happy Birthday, etc.) on dry paper
- Step 9: Sign your card — you made this!

11:00 – 12:30 Open Studio — Make Your Cards

Work in rotation on 2–3 cards at a time

- Start Card 1: stencil → watercolor → set aside to dry
- Start Card 2 while Card 1 dries (5–7 min)
- Return to Card 1: glue pen lines → wait tacky (3–5 min) → gold leaf → rhinestones
- Start Card 3 while embellishments set on Card 1
- Keep rotating — you should have 3–4 cards underway by lunch
- Kim circulates — ask questions anytime

12:30– 1:00 Lunch

On your own — explore the fair!

- Leave cards flat to dry completely — they'll be ready when you return
- Back at your station by 1:00 sharp

1:00 – 2:30 Open Studio Continues

Finish existing cards, start new ones

- Check cards from the morning — add any final embellishments
- Continue rotation: aim for 5–7 completed cards total
- Try a different stencil or freehand drawing or color palette for variety
- Experiment — mix stencils, layer colors, vary your gold leaf placement
- Kim available for individual guidance throughout

2:30 – 2:45 Show & Close

Celebrate what you made

- Lay all your cards out — see your full collection together

- Group photo of everyone's work (with your permission)
- Pack your cards and envelopes to take home
- They're ready to send, frame, or give as gifts

The rotation rhythm: Never sit waiting for something to dry — always have the next card started. Watercolor dries in 5–7 minutes. Glue pen goes tacky in 3–5 minutes. Work 2–3 cards at once and the day flows beautifully.