

BWS MINI WORKSHOP WITH KATHIE BENSON

"Ephemeral Stamping - Making Art Pieces Unique to You"

Saturday, October 26th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wickham Park Community Center, 2815 Leisure Way, Melbourne, FL

Supplies:

- Your regular watercolor supplies and brushes
- Flowers and leaves or other items from your home, both dried and fresh
- Gouache colors and black and/or white
- Paper towels
- Small pieces (8 x 10) of 140 lb paper, cold press or hot press, with which to experiment and/or Yupo
- Please bring bigger paper if you already have a design in mind. Nearer the workshop, I will send designs to trace if you like. It is not necessary.

How to Press/Prep the Ephemeral Stuff

A few days before the workshop, pick off individual flowers. If they have anything that will prevent them from lying flat, carefully remove those structures. Lay the bloom flat between two Viva towels and place inside a book or thick catalog that you do not care about (I am not sure how damaging this can be).

Place in a microwave with some more books/catalogs on top. Microwave at high for about 45 seconds. If your flower is really delicate, try 30 seconds and/or use lower settings.

Peek without peeling back the paper towels to see how flat your flowers are doing and repeat if necessary. What you are looking for is a very flat flower. It does not have to be dry, but there should be no "juiciness". Keep them in their books until the next day.

Carefully peel away the paper towels to separate the flowers and let them finish drying outside of the books but in the paper towels. They should finish drying flat. Store them flat in the paper towels and put them in a container to bring to the workshop.

Leaves, bracts and more durable things can be handled less delicately but the procedure is the same.

Questions? Contact Kathie at kathieb6@yahoo.com.