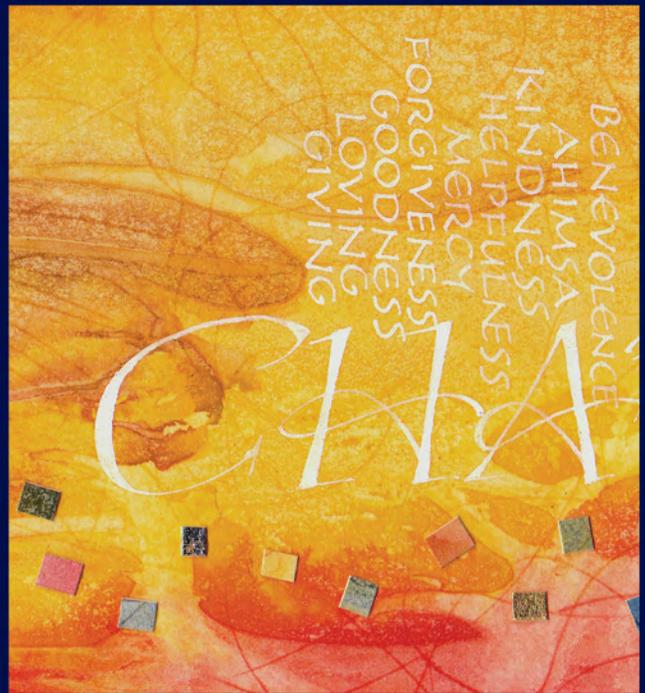


Bound & Lettered

ARTISTS' BOOKS & BOOKBINDING & PAPER CRAFT & CALLIGRAPHY



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Volume 9, Number 1, February 2011.

- 3 Envelope Odyssey**
- 6 Karl Josef Schneider**
- 10 Gospel of Thomas** *by Carol Nichols*
- 16 Te Deum: How it Happened** *by Margaret Morgan*
- 20 Little Books** *by Thea Lynn Paul*
- 24 Two Loves, One Book** *by Aimee Michaels and Carole Marsh*
- 27 Vested Interest** *by Lisa Churchward*
- 28 Book Pins** *by Dennis Ruud*
- 32 The Seven Virtues** *by Gemma Black*
- 35 Using Glair to Reconstitute Gesso** *by Jerry Tresser*
- 36 Make an Album** *by Colleen Nagel*
- 38 Why Did My Nib Die So Soon?** *by Bob Hurford*

- 41 Contributors / credits**
- 42 Subscription information**



LITTLE BOOKS

BY THEA LYNN PAUL

I AM addicted to paper, paint, calligraphy, ephemera, and all that goes with these wonderful things. And I am a collector. I save scraps, precious beads, and lots of beautiful papers I've painted or created. I've taken many classes and made beautiful books that sometimes seem too special to write in.

Recently, I have been stamping and stenciling using inexpensive acrylic paints and basic paper stencils or foam stamps that are readily available at dollar or craft stores. I stamp and stencil on anything, but I particularly love deli paper, old book or music pages, and Arches Text Wove.

A friend and I explored some of these techniques. We each started with a full sheet of 26" x 40" of Arches Text Wove. We tore it down to eight pieces, each measuring 10" x 13". We both worked with the same palette – light yellow, blue, purple, and black, using inexpensive acrylic paints. We added Golden fluid matte medium (about 2/3 paint and 1/3 medium), painted the backgrounds with foam rollers and sponges, and then stamped and stenciled. After each layer, we blotted the painted surface with deli paper. Blotting keeps the paper smooth so it doesn't get heavy and bumpy with a build-up of paint. It also helps to speed the drying process so you can do the next layers quickly.

We painted both sides of each of the eight pieces, and after a couple of hours we had beautiful pages that were similar looking. Then the magic happened! To tie the pages together, we glazed them using Golden fluid acrylics diluted approximately one-part paint to six- to eight-parts Golden fluid matte me-



Clockwise from top left. Garden Mirror, Sunflowers, and Earth Laughs in Flowers.

diem. I chose Quinacridone/Nickel Azo Gold and my friend chose Turquoise (Phthalo). The difference was startling. You would never know we started with the same palette.

We then ripped the paper once more to a 6½" x 10" size, and folded those pieces in half. I was planning on binding all of the pages together into one book. I decided to work further on the pages before I bound them – adding calligraphy, quotes, and collage pieces (painted tissue, postage stamps, etc). I used

Sumi ink with a pointed nib and a Horizon pen, Twinkling H20s, a Pentel brush pen, colored pencils, and Glaze pens. Given my colors and choice of stencils, I kept to flower themes. It was easy to work on the individual pages when they were not in a book.

After the pages were decorated, I loved them so much that I decided to use them all as covers and made sixteen individual books that measure 5" x 6½". I added two signatures with five folded pages of

various types of blank paper (total of ten pages in each signature) to each book, and bound them with a simple pamphlet stitch, adding beads to the spine as I was binding them. The combination of the Arches Text Wove, smooth acrylic paint, and glazes with matte medium made the covers feel like soft leather. These books make special gifts. Don't forget to color photocopy your pages before you bind them so you can use the copies in other projects. ¹⁸

TWO LOVES, ONE BOOK

BY AIMEE MICHAELS AND CAROLE MARSH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY AIMEE MICHAELS.



Mrs. Pinocci's Guitar. Artwork by Toni Kelly.