



Distressed DOODLES

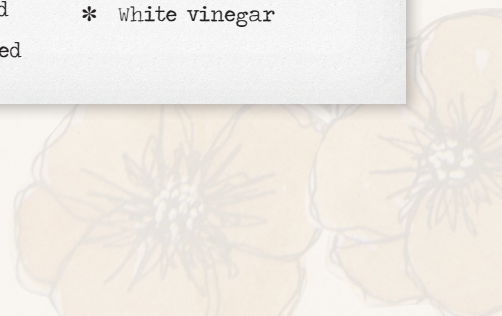
BY MAGS WOODCOCK

Mini-books always have a hold on my heart, and I especially love concertina types. There is something so special about unfolding and discovering the inside pages. This particular book has rust within its pages and also rusted elements added in the form of paper clips. There are text blocks with encouraging words to lift the spirits and journaling within the layers too. I love to doodle and can sit for hours just doodling and switching off from the world; it's very mindful. I love to draw flowers and leaves, and when I discovered a way to color my flowers with rust, I was over the moon. ▶



SUPPLIES

- * Acrylic paint: (Pebeo - Studio)
- * Bottle cap: plastic
- * Brayer
- * Cardstock: kraft
- * Cotton swab/ Blending stump
- * Decoupage medium: matte (DecoArt - Americana)
- * Gesso: white
- * Glass mat
- * Inkpads: Ground Espresso, Vintage Photo (Ranger - Archival)
- * PVA glue
- * Paintbrush
- * Paper clips: rusted
- * Paper towels: rusted
- * Pencil: B6
- * Pens: fine-liner, black (Sakura - Micron); gel, white (Signo - Uniball)
- * Powdered stain: Green Knight (PaperArtsy - Infusions)
- * Printer paper
- * Rubber stamps: Bring on the Sentiments (AALL & Create - Tracy Evans); ESA27 (PaperArtsy - Seth Apter)
- * Rusting powder: PaperArtsy
- * Spray bottle
- * Twine/String
- * Watercolor paper
- * White vinegar





Live

Each

Moment

TECHNIQUE

Cut a strip of watercolor paper so it measures 29-cm x 10.5-cm. Sprinkle powdered stain onto a glass mat, spray with water, and press the watercolor paper onto the stain. Repeat on the other side of the paper.

Once dry, apply white gesso to the paper with a brayer, allowing some of the stain to peek through. Use decoupage medium to adhere rusted paper towel scraps to the paper, and let dry completely. Score and fold the paper to create a concertina book.

Stamp lines onto the paper. Add journaling to areas of the book pages using a white gel pen. Stamp words onto kraft cardstock, cut them out, and set them aside. Use a fine-liner pen to doodle flowers and leaves on printer paper.

Mix a small amount of vinegar with rusting powder in a small plastic bottle cap, leave it to rust, and let the vinegar evaporate completely. Add a small amount of water to release the rust color, and use this to add color to the doodles. Less water means darker rust, while more water creates a softer, lighter wash.





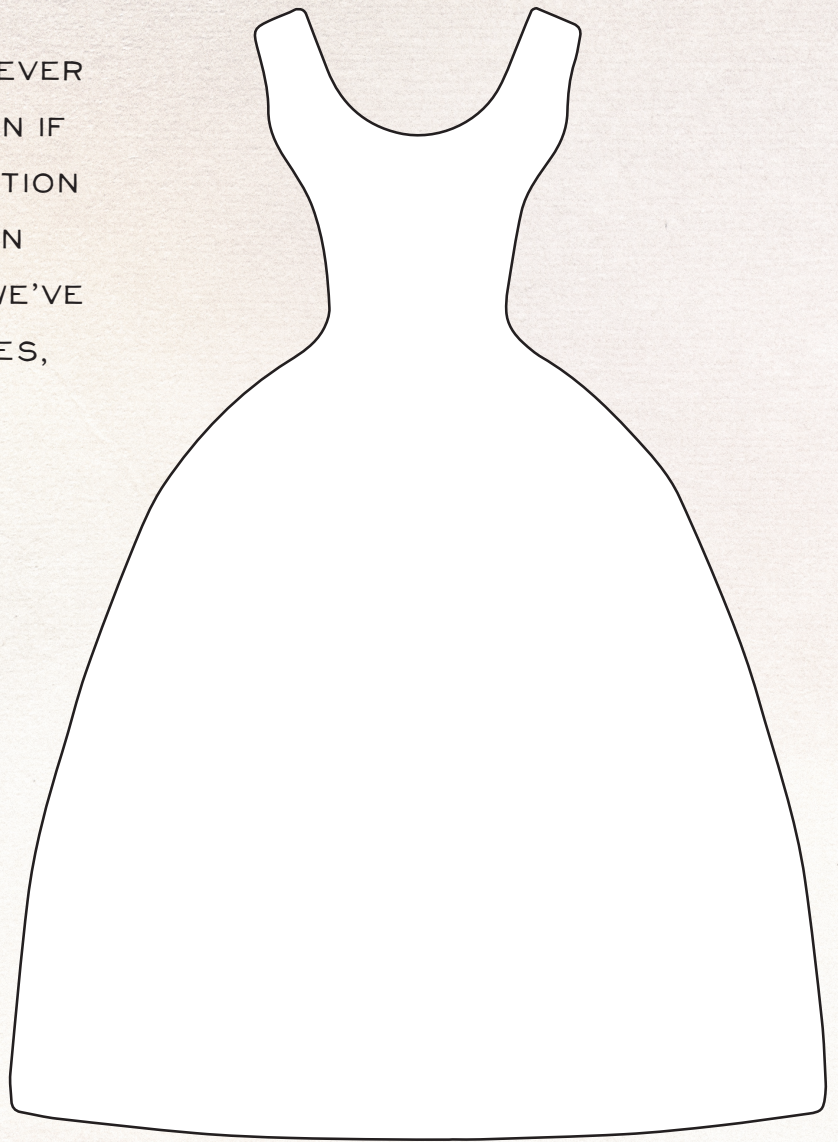
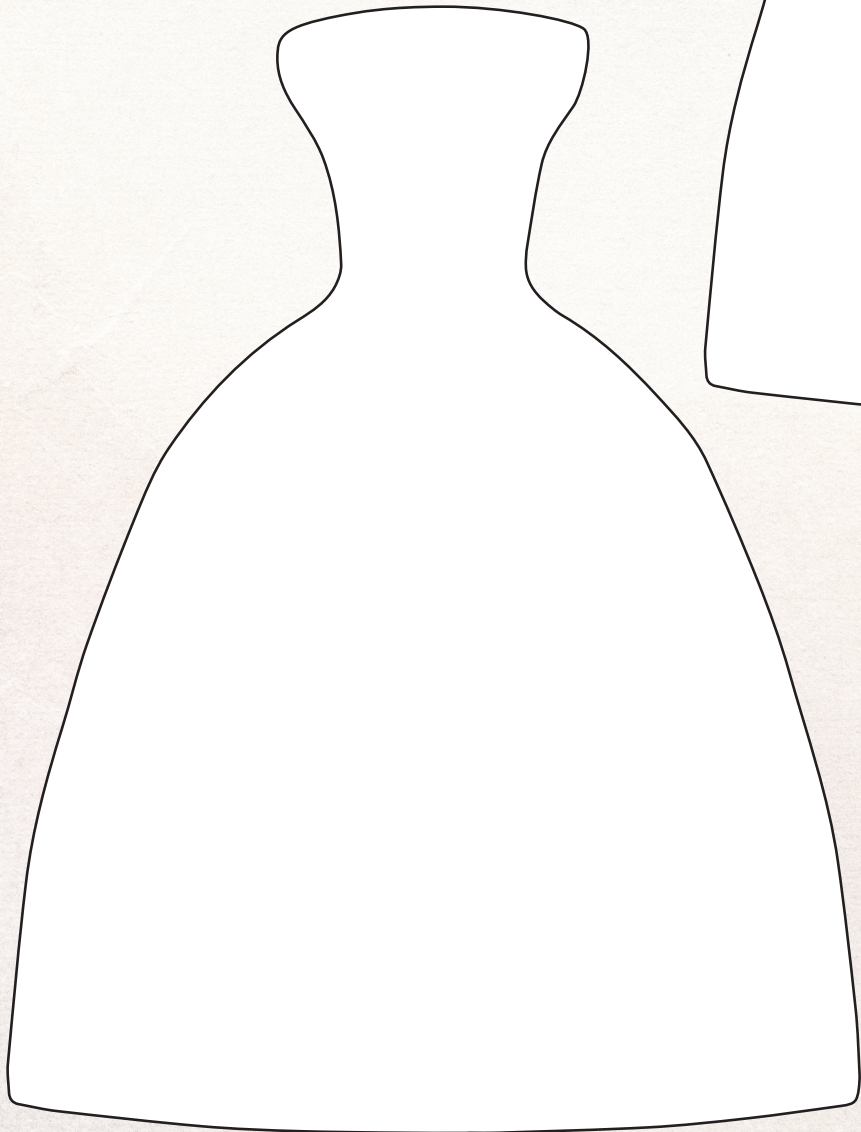
Once the doodles are dry, cut them out and arrange them on the book pages along with the words. Add stems with a fine-liner pen and highlights with a white gel pen. Adhere all of the elements to the book pages. Outline the word blocks with a soft pencil, and smudge it using a cotton swab or blending stump. To finish the book, attach rusted paper clips and twine.

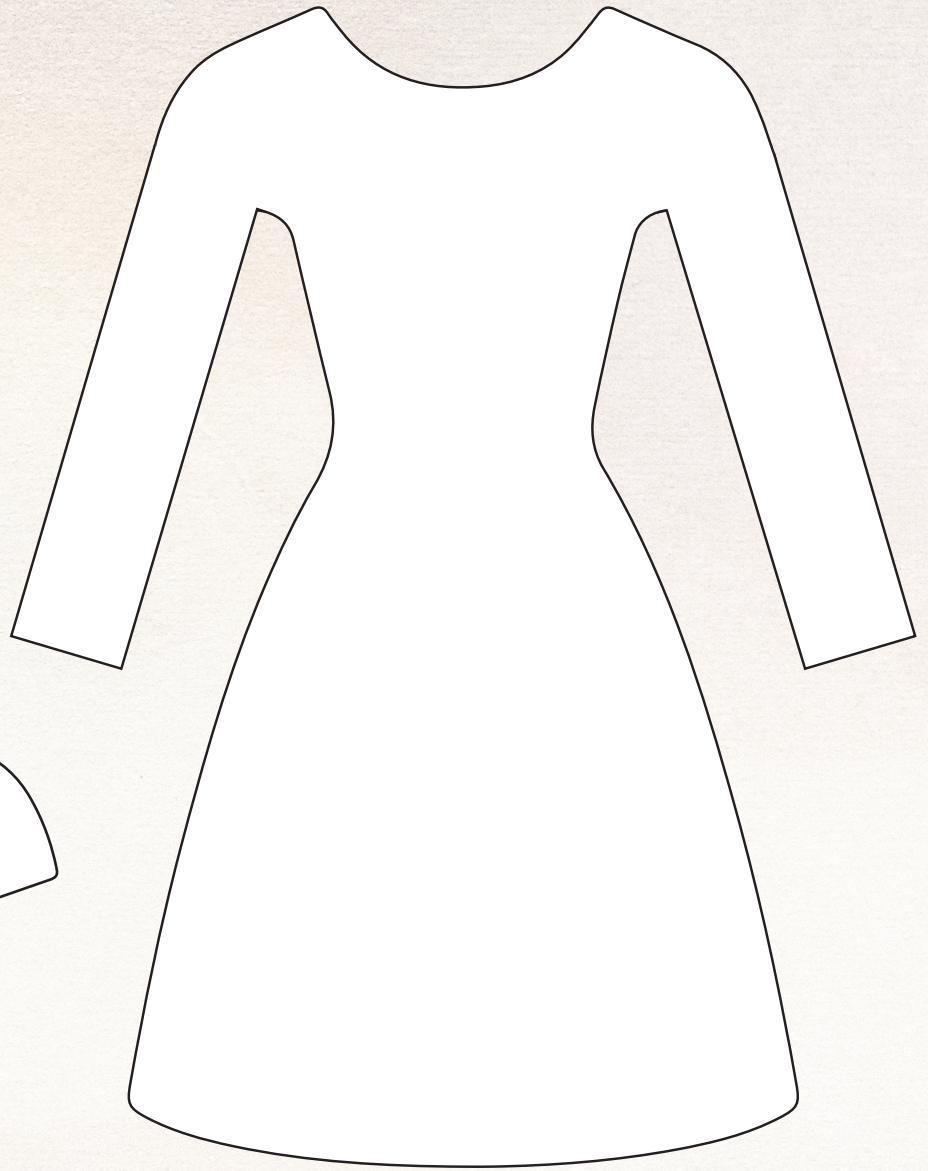
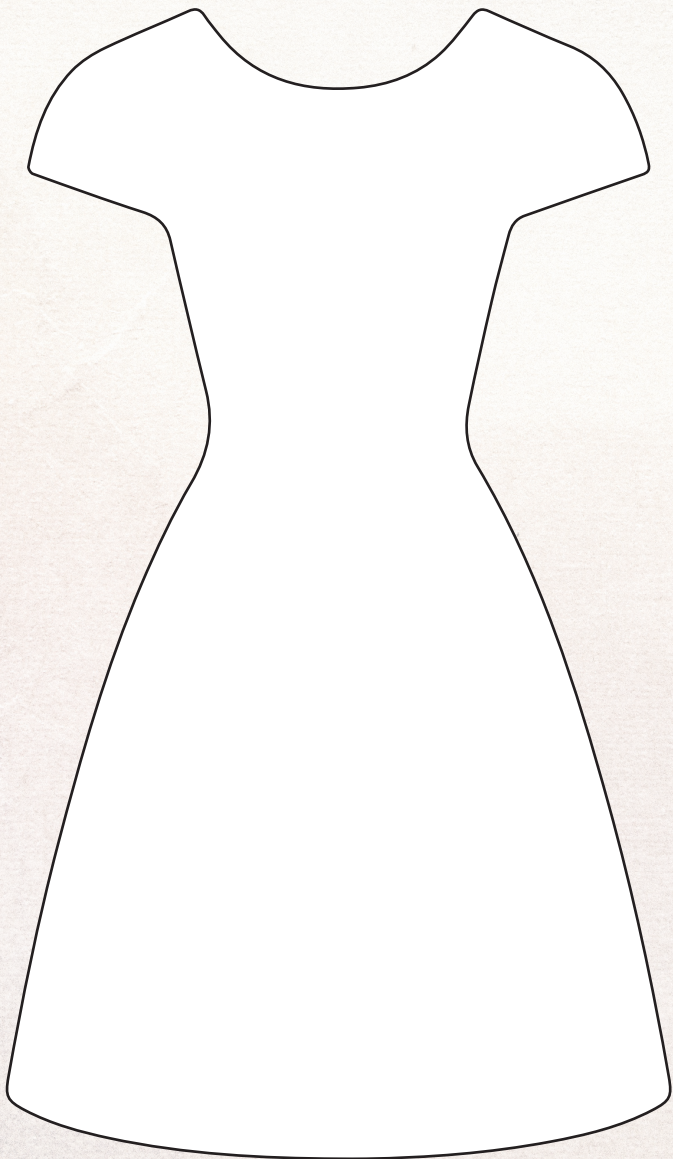
TIPS

- * The journaling doesn't have to be legible — write quickly and erratically.
- * Always wear a mask and glasses when working with fine powders, like rusting powder, as they can easily be breathed in.

You can find Mags Woodcock on YouTube ([magswoodcock](#)), as well as on Instagram ([@mags.woodcock](#)) and Facebook ([mags.woodcock](#)).

WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE NEVER
TOO OLD TO PLAY DRESS-UP, EVEN IF
IT'S JUST ON PAPER. TAKE INSPIRATION
FROM JENIECE SHACKELFORD ON
PAGE 90, AND FILL THE DRESSES WE'VE
PROVIDED WITH FLORALS, DOODLES,
PAINTS, AND MORE.





If you're looking to take your doodles to the next level, try making them out of floral wire! It's an easy material to work with, and it will add something completely unique to your piece.

Choose a couple of your favorite things to doodle, like hearts or houses, and create them using wire. Adhere them to this page. If you don't have wire, you could always use something like string or yarn.



Patton

TEA & Tangles

BY MARNITA PATTON

At the start of 2018 I was contemplating art ideas for different family members and thinking about *Somerset Studio's* soon approaching Time For Tea challenging. My mixed-media approach does not always lend itself to gift-giving, so I was concentrating on style, themes, and designs that most individuals, including my family members, would recognize, might relate to, and find fitting for their home.

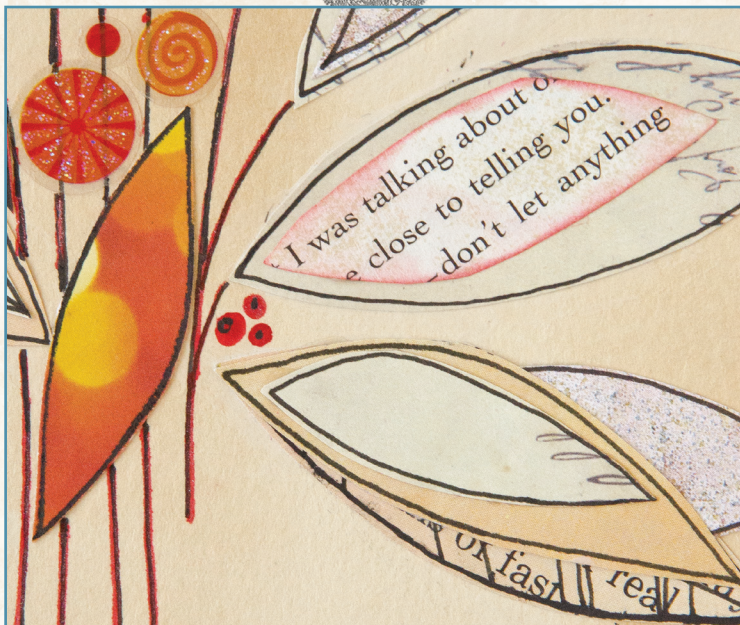
Many years ago, I discovered that staining paper with coffee or tea could create an interesting vintage effect that could be a springboard to working in a variety of ways with different mediums. As I thought of how I could combine my love of paper, patterns, layering, and doodling I recalled some wonderful flower collages done by Susan Black. I wanted to not only create beautiful floral compositions, but also to expand and try out some other simple shape ideas. The possibilities seemed endless!

The idea of working with simple shapes and adding doodles, or what is now commonly termed Zentangle or “tangle” designs was also appealing as a way to de-stress after the workday ... with a cup of tea in hand, of course. ▶



Supplies

- * Acrylic paint: Pearlescent Platinum Pink (Daler-Rowney)
- * Apple cider
- * Coffee
- * Crayons: (Ranger - Distress)
- * Embellishments
- * Embossed metal tags
- * Glitter markers: (Uchida - Decocolor); (Spectrum - Noir Sparkle)
- * Glue: acid-free (Yes!); tacky glue
- * Metallic markers: (Crayola)
- * Paintbrushes: 1"-2", foam/bristle; detail
- * Paper: patterned; book text; maps; Artist Paper (Stampington & Company)
- * Pastels
- * Pens: (Sakura - Gelly Roll); white (Signo - Uni-ball)
- * Ribbon: printed (Tapestry by C.R. Gibson)
- * Tea: assorted flavors
- * Watercolor paper: 11" x 15", 5 1/2" x 7 1/2", cold-press, 140 lb. (Canson)



Technique

CREATING THE BACKGROUND

Place several sheets of watercolor paper on your surface. Saturate your brush with the tea or coffee, and paint the interior area of the paper. Leaving a white edge adds interest. Be playful, tipping the paper to let the tea drip and pool. This creates an interesting background of light and dark areas. ▶



HELPFUL HINTS

- * Experiment with using several types of tea on one paper.
- * Play around with how much water you add to the tea or coffee.
- * See what happens if once dry you apply a second layer of tea.



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Patton



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CREATING THE SHAPES

To start, select your color palette. A playful approach will allow you to tap into your intuitive nature. Haphazardly cut circle, oval, and leaf shapes of different sizes and begin layering them to get a feel for what looks good together. The imperfection of the shapes adds interest. Once the composition is created, a section at a time can be removed for designing. Select several pen colors to create outlines and tangle designs on each of the shapes. Once a section has been designed, adhere to your background and move on to the next section.

Marnita Patton is a mixed-media artist and full-time art therapist.



Patton

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POS — PRE

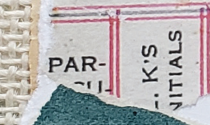
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When Old Meets New:

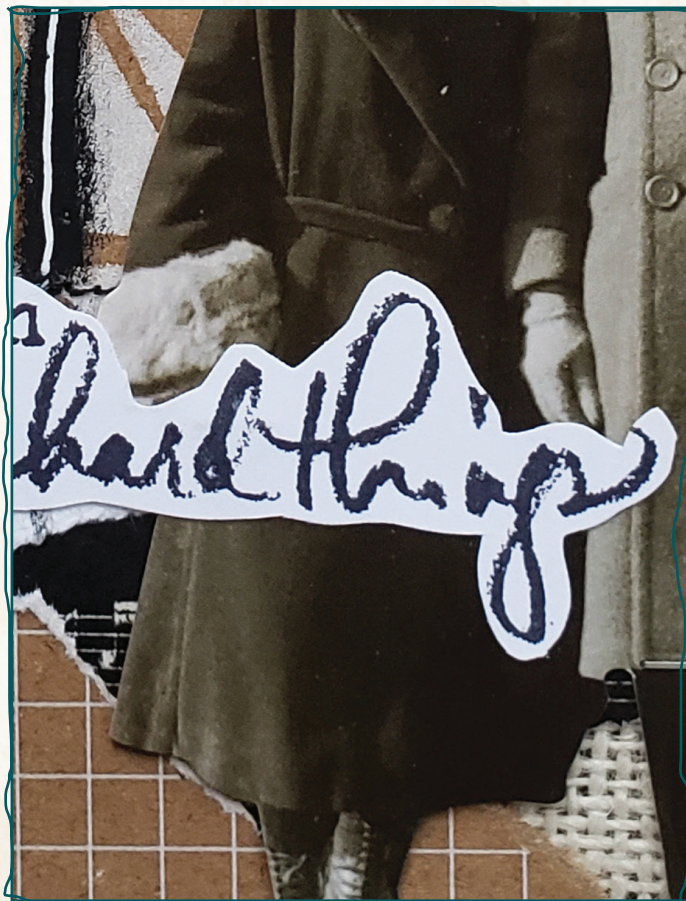
JUXTAPOSING STYLES IN MIXED-MEDIA

BY MEGAN WHISNER QUINLAN

Although I have been art journaling for over 20 years, I have really only been exploring mixed-media for the last three or so. In that time, I have found that I have trouble working solely in one style. There is just too much out there to explore, and it all feels like being a kid in a candy store. Who could pick just one kind of candy? My approach to art is very much like buying candy — I want to try it all.

When I began my mixed-media journey, I would do everything in one journal at a time. I would have doodling on one page, collage on another, and abstract painting on another. I found myself jumping back and forth between the pages and I began to get frustrated. Once a journal was finished, I'd look back and feel that it wasn't cohesive enough (to me, at least). It was then I had an "aha moment" and decided to designate journals for each style I wanted to explore; this allowed me to really develop my styles, almost like going to class. It allowed me to embrace different techniques in a way that made me comfortable. Recently, I have been taking what I've been learning and combining it all on one page — a whole new concept to me!

In my search to try new techniques, I have been exploring the many online class offerings from all the creatives out there. It was after taking a couple of Laura Horn's classes (I recommend any of them) that some doors were opened for me. She had so many different ideas and I wanted to try them all at once! Forget about separating them into different journals, I decided I couldn't wait and began trying everything I was learning and what I had been doing, all on one page. It was unintentional, but I developed this new fascination with juxtaposing the old with the new. ►



The one thing I really enjoyed was trying out someone else's color schemes and textures. I have been doing journal spreads in very bright colors because they are so immediately joyful. I learned to work in some more neutral palettes that began to set a more antique tone, something very new to me. I had tried to make handmade papers but with little success. After taking Laura's class, however, I came away with some great ideas, like using old sewing patterns as collage paper, for example. I had seen it done before, but it never occurred to me to actually try it out on my own. Soon I was making all sorts of papers and thinking of how I could add texture in different ways.

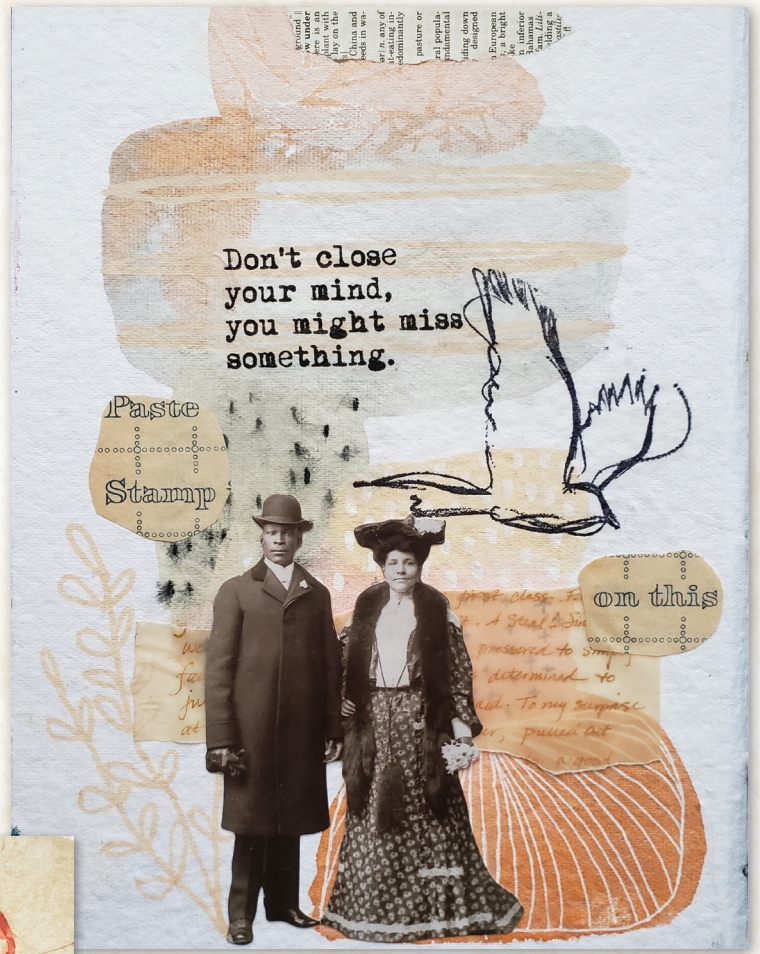




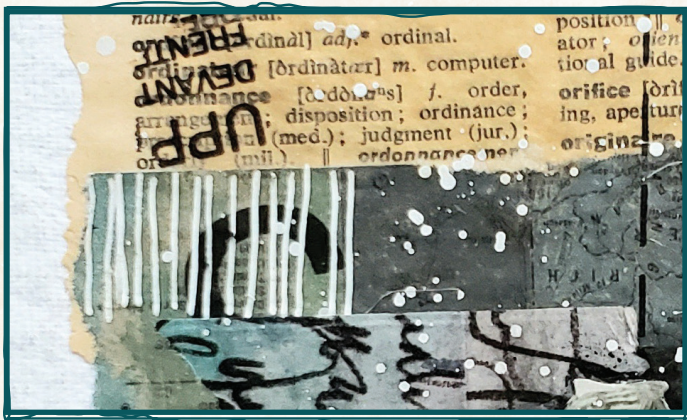
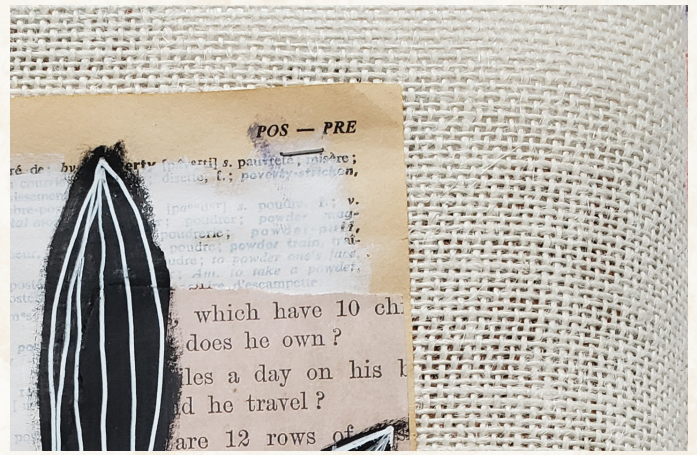
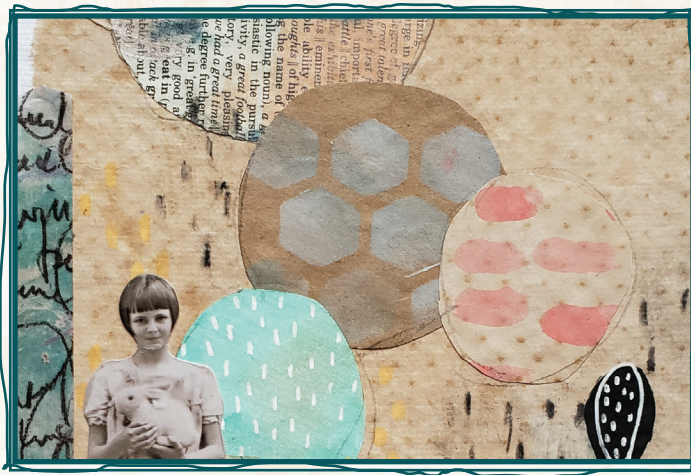
Once my compositions were started, I began to really add all my old techniques along with the new. I have always had a love for old ephemera — don't we all? Way back when, I lived by a great flea market in Rowley, Massachusetts, I used to sift through boxes of old photographs and bring new ones home every weekend. The only problem was that I hesitated to use them in my art because they were too precious! Then I discovered the Tim Holtz idea-ology paper dolls and, all of a sudden, I had no reason to feel guilty. I use these images often and love their vintage feel against abstract, contemporary, or mixed-media backgrounds. I like to offset the muted tones and Old-World feel with my doodling, mostly of botanicals. Botanicals are simple to draw, and I like how they can be used to pull everything together on a page. ►

Favorite Supplies

- * Acrylic paints: (Ranger - Dina Wakley)
- * Gel medium: matte (Liquitex)
- * Gel pens: (Uni-Ball - Signo)
- * Handmade papers
- * Paint pens: (Posca)
- * Paper dolls: (Tim Holtz - idea-ology)
- * Rubber stamps: (Ranger - Dina Wakley)
- * Vintage dictionary pages



Recently, my grandfather passed away at the ripe old age of 95. He lived a good life and was quite an adventurous man. I like to capture these moments on the pages of my journals too. All the rites of passage go in; it's my way of record-keeping in my art. It also allows me to put my emotions on the page. I decided to use this style to commemorate my grandfather's spirit on the page with bits of ephemera and photocopies of old photographs from his life. I used some of the newer techniques that I have been using, and it really came together nicely. It reminded me that life's events — both the big and the small — are like learning new techniques: There is always a way to combine them and make room to celebrate all the bits and pieces of who you are.



You can find more about Megan Whisner Quinlan on Instagram (@megan_whisner_quinlan). You can also find her work at meganwhisnerquinlanstudio.etsy.com and on YouTube.