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Painted Pages: Fueling Creativity With Sketchbooks And Mixed Media



Synopsis

More inspirational guide than step-by-step workbook, *Painted Pages* is about helping you to find your own unique way, in the everyday, to be creative and make art. With specific how-to techniques and creative prompts on using an artist's sketchbook in a new way, these pages provide a gentle push to help you discover and integrate your creative passions through sketchbooks, workspaces, and mixed media. Through beautiful full-color imagery, you'll learn in each chapter how your collections, scraps, ideas, and doodles can lead directly to, and fuel ideas for, creating individual works of art. Using her own materials and methods as a source of motivation, Sarah Ahearn Bellemare provides an inside look at her personal creative processes, sharing her use of her favorite resources alongside tips and tricks for making art — all the while encouraging you to explore, play, and make mistakes as part of the journey. At the end of each chapter, Sarah takes you to visit the studios and sketchbooks of some of her fellow artists — including Shanna Murray, Christine Chitnis, Stephanie Levy, and others — for behind-the-scenes glances into their creative work. Become inspired to build upon your own artistic style and discover the beauty in everyday life with *Painted Pages*! — —

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Customer Reviews

What is it with mixed media books these days? It seems a lot of the new ones are absolutely wonderful to look at and a true feast on the eyes, but also they are seriously lacking in content. This book by the very talented Sarah Ahearn Bellemare is no exception. It makes it so hard to rate the book, because I really enjoyed flipping through it and looking at all the wonderful art. In fact I have to

admit that is what sold this book to me when I was looking at it at .com. But when a book promises to show me how to work with sketchbooks to generate ideas and creativity I guess I expect more than content that mostly reminds me of a pretty blog. I'm getting sidetracked here, but actually it kind of strangely reminded me of the Stampington magazine 'Artful Blogging'. I bought one issue of this magazine and all it seems to consist of is pictures from people's blogs and a small description of who they are. No actual inside tips on blogging or the techniques of building an artful blog and working with the available blog hosts out there or even just experiences and pointers on how to develop an audience for your blog (which is what I was expecting). Most featured artist's were just quickly talking about themselves, when they started a blog and how wonderful it all is and all the images come straight from their blogs too (To get sidetracked even a little more, this kind of bugged me, which may seem strange, but why would I pay a lot of money for a magazine that shows me pictures I can see for free online?). What I mean is, Artful Blogging is not about the act of blogging artfully, it's about showcasing people's blogs. This book is just like that. It's about showcasing Ahearn Bellemare's work and surroundings and in a small way that of some of her friends.

I am an artist and I teach painting and drawing to University theatre design students. I work with numerous mediums on both a large (very large!) and small scale. I have been very interested in bringing a mix of media into my own work. I could not wait to get this book and received it for my birthday this year. As someone who is always creating- and teaching methods/thinking of creativity - I am always looking for new forms of inspiration and a different approach. Sarah's book is wonderful as it is not a specific how-to book but rather a "try this, oh! and try this! and this is a great way to..." An idea generator- for those who have been generating for awhile and might need a kick start in a different direction and for those who are absolutely new and need/want a little 'nudge'. The book is very clear in its layout and follows a great progression beginning with materials and basic info on color and composition. Then Sarah heads to what inspires her to begin a work; the what, where and how's follow with specifics, suggestions and 'try this'. Chapter five finds us in the studio with Sarah- putting it all together. Each chapter has wonderful work by guest artists- I love this because you have an idea of how they might take a similar approach but the work is very different. What I love most is the attention paid to the sketchbook- I believe that an artist's relationship to their sketchbook is one of the most important that they will ever have and Sarah illustrates this perfectly! Thea Coughlin's photos of Sarah's materials, space, sketchbooks, etc. are beautiful and inspire an eagerness to get to the studio asap!

Painted Pages is a wonderful book! It has so many creative applications beyond creating mixed media artwork. Sarah Ahearn Bellemare walks you through her creative process, which is a unique approach to explaining how to do something on one's own. Highlights: The list of Sarah's favorite supplies to use while working is amazing. I always wonder exactly what to buy and she makes it very clear. Everything from surfaces to work with, to "fun extras" Sarah takes the mystery out of getting ready to create. This book is more than a simple how to manual to show you how to replicate someone else's work, rather it's about leading you to find your own creative voice through prompts, which I find even more useful. I love this concept. After all, I really want to develop my own style for creating mixed media work (and beyond mixed media even) and this book provides the steps to do just that. These prompts are really useful to me. I am finally finding my own way with mixed media - rather than too closely following someone else's style. My sketchbook is actually more like a journal but I'm seeing it with new eyes now. Within all of my to-do lists, and tiny collages and taped in ticket stubs and receipts is all I need to finally take the leap into creating more art work. Before reading Painted Pages, I was always trying to come up with ideas, and now I know I've had ideas all along, I was just not looking at them in the right way. Lastly, I can't end this review without saying how beautiful this book is. Thea Coughlin is an amazing photographer. The pictures are inspiration in themselves. One idea I'm borrowing from the photos is to cover my bulletin board in fabric to liven it up.

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