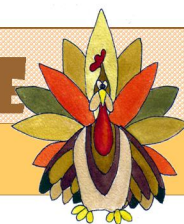


LIVING THE ARTISTIC LIFE

www.artlessonswithjamie.com

November 2011



Happy Thanksgiving!

Welcome to the November edition of Living The Artistic Life newsletter.

As the weather turns colder and wetter [thankfully] We start thinking about the Christmas season and how much fun it is to create little special gifts for our friends and family. This edition is all about the “crafts” that make being creative so satisfying to artists. Recycling old Christmas cards or unfinished watercolors into cards or ornaments is not a new idea.... but maybe I can show you a way to recycle that you had not thought of before.. visit page 2 and get busy...time is a wasting.

Let's talk turkey! Jamie

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Ask Jamie: Question Of The Month

Recently the question came up asking why **Decorative Painter's** were not considered true “artists”Here is what happened.

It seems that their work was placed under the “Crafts” section during a state fair competition instead of the Arts category .

Some thought it might be because they used a pattern to paint from ; and others thought maybe it was because a lot of time they paint on wood or other surfaces.

Here is the way I responded to the question... [Let me know what you think e mail jamiecarteram@yahoo.com]

Dear Decorative Painter.... I might agree that the use of a pattern could take you out of the “arts” category ... if it was designed and created by another artist and you transferred it onto your painting surface. However I will say this ... most Decorative painter's have an abundance of skills and talent and I greatly admire they way they use stroke work, shading, and color glazing to their full advantage.

There is much to recommend about Decorative Painting... since it is a very disciplined and imaginative method of painting ...no matter what the surface.

I would recommend that you learn to draw so you are able to come up with your own images and could then branch over into the “arts” category since it would be your own creation.

Go to www.ArtLessonsWithJamie.com and order the drawing lessons.

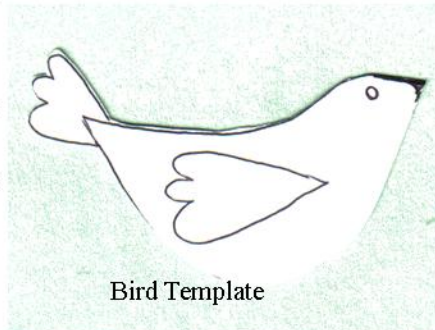
Sharing The Creative Journey : Recycling for Christmas Creativity

There is nothing new about re using old Christmas Cards for ornaments, recycled cards and gift tags....but think about this...

What if you used the failed or unfinished drawings or watercolor paintings that you just can't bring yourself to throw away...even though you pretty much know you will never complete them!!!!

Well ...the acid free rag watercolor paper and washes of color are the perfect back drop for ornaments, gift tags, and card making. You can glue it ,embellish it ,and mark over it with just about anything.

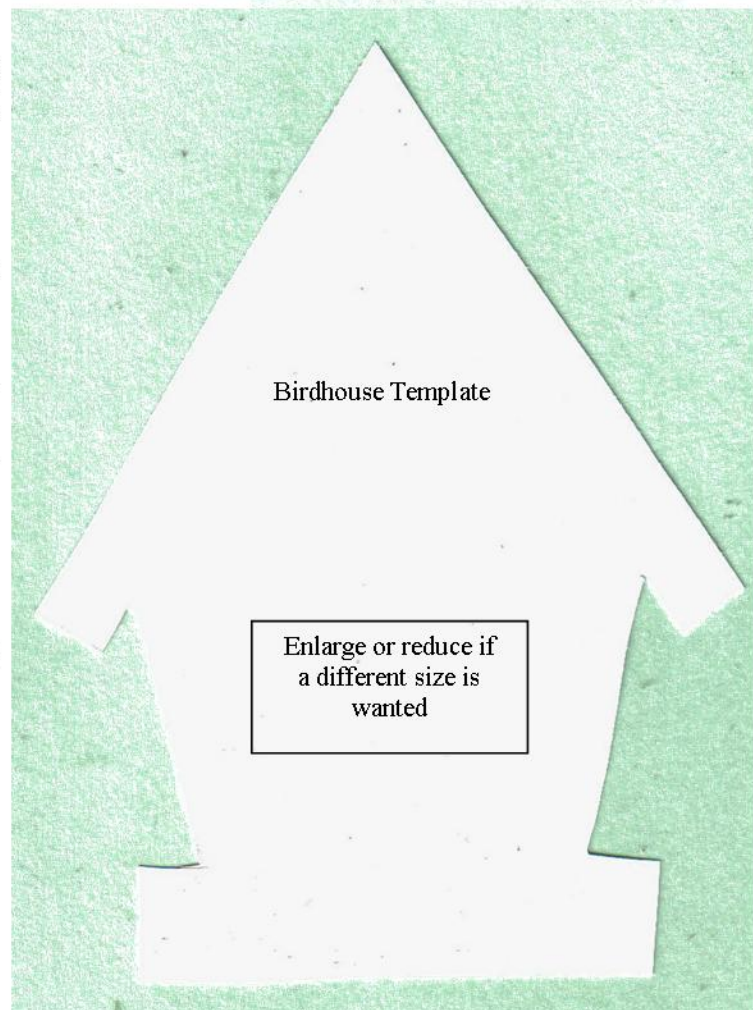
I am giving you a couple of **Templates** to use as a pattern and a few finished examples to inspire you....Have a great time recycling. Run this page off on heavy cardstock so you have a stable template to trace around .



Bird Template

Cut out the Templates and then lay them on top of one of your old watercolor paintings then trace around them....cut that out and you have a perfect base to build upon... random bits of color and nothing really planned...add more strips to the eaves and base of the birdhouse.... I like using an old card that has some fancy border I can cut up... glue the bird somewhere and then write a message on the computer or use the inside greeting from the card... Examples on the next page...

I also like to do pages of birds and will show you them. Copy and paint them for more fun. Use gluesticks and Modge Podge Dimensional for sticking stuff on.. sequins, beads, and wire add a finished designer's touch...Have Fun. *Jamie*



Birdhouse Template

Enlarge or reduce if
a different size is
wanted



I found this old painting in a sketch book... I used part of it for the walls of the house... Glue it to another sturdier piece of cardstock before you cut it out.. Then I added a circle that I had cut out for the "door"



I then cut the bird out from another old painting and glued it on... Used another piece for the eave area... an old Christmas card provided the message at the bottom... add glitter, ribbon, or any other embellishment . Use a hole punch at the top and add a wire with beads for the hanger. This dresses it up... See the next page for more examples.





Cut from old paintings

Drawn and painted birds



Because I knew I would do multiple cards or ornaments I did a page of different birds that I drew and painted... and then cut out a lot of "scrap paper birds" for another look... Below are a few finished ornaments.



Hope you have fun and for more Christmas crafts and ornament fun go to the website and look under Arts and Crafts.

To keep your ornaments a long time pour on the Modge Podge Dimensional coat and let them dry.