



Norine Borys

This month, we are featuring Norine Borys!

1. What motivated you to start making cards and begin stamping?

Years (and years) ago, a friend dragged me along to a Stampin' Up! party and I went to socialize but then found that I really enjoyed playing with the products! However, I was a passionate scrapbooker and, with a growing family, it didn't feel like there was enough hobby time to accommodate both interests. But I hung on to all my stamps and inks, even after the inks dried up (or turned to some unidentifiable substance) and gradually, over the last few year, my interests have shifted to card making almost exclusively. It's the smaller canvas, the multiple creative techniques, styles, and products that keep me endlessly entertained and excited.

2. How did you fall in love with Altenew?

I'm going to admit to something here. It took me a while. Well, no, it didn't. I loved Altenew designs the first time I laid eyes on them, but it took me a while to buy some. Because the packaging is a different size from most stamp companies and they didn't fit in the storage system I had going. Isn't that just the silliest thing?! So then I decided I could have a special-sized basket JUST for Altenew! Now that basket is full and it's time to get another!

3. You are a master of vintage looking cards! Do you have a favorite medium to work with to do this? Please share some tips on how you use them.

It's so interesting to hear that! I had to go back and look at my Altenew cards and I totally see it! I think it's the combination of florals and the color tones that I'm most often drawn to. Watercoloring is my favorite technique to use on Altenew's florals. I rarely use a color of paint directly from the tube or pan, opting instead, to mix colors with leftover shades left in my paint tin and the result is an antique-y, vintage look. And, of course, a painted project is not finished until it's been splattered - adding to the vintage feel of a card.

4. Do you have a specific style that you are comfortable with or like to stick to?

I really like to try all the different styles! I'd love to be more comfortable with the CAS (Clean and Simple) card making style, but it's hard! An "unfinished" looking card makes me twitchy and by the time I've satisfied the twitch, the card is no longer CAS. But I most often end up back with florals and watercolor paints. And if I can pair that with some patterned paper, my day is complete!

5. This is just for fun! If you can choose only three crafting supplies for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

Three crafting supplies I could never get tired of using are watercolor paints or watercolor pencils, outline stamps, and washi tapes. I might not ever actually USE the washi tapes, but I'd arrange and display them all pretty and that would be enough to justify their existence!

6. Can you share a favorite card you made previously using Altenew products?

Well, it's not a card, so much as a home decor piece, but here is one of my favorite projects - just because it perfectly suits my love of watercolor, combined with pen & ink. I actually used a stencil to create this! The [Watercolor Bouquet Stencil](#), which is a sort of two-step stencil allowing you to layer details over a solid background. In this case, I colored in the

stencil openings with brush markers, going section by section, lifting up and moving the color with a water brush, even dragging some color out of the design shape and into the background. Then I went back and did the detail layer the same way with darker colors of pens. Once the two layers of color were laid down and dry, it was mostly just a suggestion of florals and that's where I really had fun, adding in fine black pen lines that don't follow any shape too strictly. It's a technique that allows for so much freedom and opportunity to play. I messed about with a few more colors in the background and once it was all dry, I stamped on a few of the sentiments from the [Forever and Always Stamp Set](#). I clipped the finished piece to a clipboard and have it displayed in my home.

