



GELLI ARTS[®]
MADE
LESSON
PLANS

Lesson Plans
Grades 9-12



Enameled Faux Crackle Boxes

with Giovanna Zara

OBJECTIVES

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) demonstrate the ability to create a faux crackle texture
- SWBAT design their own boxes

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students create a faux crackle texture?
- What is faux?

SUPPLIES

- GelliArts® 9x12" gelli plate
- GelliArts® brayer
- DecoArt Media crackle paste
- DecoArt TopCoat
- Corrugated cardstock

STEP BY STEP

- **Step 1:** Spread the crackle paste on a piece of corrugated cardstock and set aside to dry. Tip: An alternative to the crackle paste could be embossing paste through crackle stencils, an embossing folder or a crackled texture plate.
- **Step 2:** Brush a layer of gel medium or PVA glue to avoid peeling off and set aside to dry.
- **Step 3:** Spread two contrasting colors of acrylic paint blobs on the Gelli Arts® 9×12" gel plate: spread the paint very, very well. You must see through the paint to the plate, otherwise this technique doesn't work.
- **Step 4:** Press the crackle handmade texture plate on the left side, lift it, and press it on the right side several times until you are happy with the result.
- **Step 5:** Lay a piece of cardstock on the right side, press, smooth it and lift the cardstock.
- You can try different colors combinations such as gold and black, white and red, blue and light green.
- **Step 6:** Paint the wooden box with acrylic paint.
- **Step 7:** Cut the cardstock to size and adhere to the lid with tacky glue. Wait until it is perfectly dry.
- **Step 8:** Next, add a glossy finish such as DecoArt TopCoat.



Tangling Books

with Marsha Valk

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) create a tangling book
- SWBAT demonstrate an understanding of the tangling making process
- SWBAT comprehend pattern design and the creative process through color and stamp choices
- SWBAT master the use of limited color through the limited process in this lesson

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What is a tangling?
- What is limited color?
- Who created tangle?

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® Quatrefoil Mini Gel Printing Plate (other mini plates work as well)
- Paper
- Cutting equipment
- Scoring equipment
- Glue stick
- Acrylic stamping block
- Fast drying stamping ink
- Scissors
- Repositionable adhesive
- Acrylic paint (DecoArt Americana Premium Carbon Black and Primary Cyan)
- 2" roller
- Rubber stamps
- Pens, pencils

STEP BY STEP (See full process the in video below!)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Re9aN3cpP8&feature=emb_title
- **Step 1:** In the video, you see me create an accordion- folded booklet. I chose to make it **9x9 cm, which is very close to 3.5" x 3.5"**. *You can make the accordion any size you want, and you can easily adapt the length of the accordion to be shorter or longer.*
 - 1: Cut strips of 3.5" wide paper
 - 2: Score the stripes every 3.5"
 - 3: Fold at the score parts to make the accordion
 - 4: Score ¼ from the edges
 - 5: Glue together the accordion
- **Step 2:** Begin using the mini plates to stamp and decorate the accordion pages
- **Step 3:** Using pens and pencils apply doodles or tangles to the spaces around the mini printed sections (or on top of them event)

VOCABULARY

- Tangle – To twist together into a confused mass (tangling is the verb form)



Layering Techniques

with Birgit Koopsen

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) demonstrate a variety of layering techniques

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What kinds of layering techniques can be used when using a gelli plate?

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® 5×7 Gel Printing Plate
- Acrylic paints
- Brayer
- Tissue paper (the thinner the better)
- Stencils and stamps
- Cardstock or watercolor paper
- Matte medium

Step-by-Step

- **Step 1:** Start by covering the plate with acrylic paint and place stencils on top. Make the first print.
- **Step 2:** Remove the stencils and make another print from the paint that was left on the plate.
- **Step 3:** After that, there may still be some paint on the plate. Let it dry for a few seconds. Add a tiny bit of white paint (or any other color than the one dried on the plate), spread it out covering the whole plate and make a print of that. That gives you three different prints from one session. Two will be completely translucent when glued down, the third will be semi-translucent as there is a layer of paint on the entire print, and there are no “open” spaces.
- **Step 4:** Create a bunch of papers using a variety of colors and patterns. Create some using stamps as well!
- **Step 5:** One option for using stamps is to cover the plate with acrylic paint and push the stamp onto the plate to lift up some paint. Stamp the paint off on a piece of tissue paper. After repeating this on the entire plate, you can pull a print from the plate.
- **Step 6:** A second option for using stamps is to cover the plate with two colors next to each other. Stamp on the left on left side of the plate, lift up the paint, then place the stamp on the right side, transferring the first color onto the second color. Then pull a print.
 - Continue to print until you have a stack of prints.
- **Step 7:** Now you're ready to start layering. You will need some cardstock or watercolor paper and matte medium.
- **Step 8:** Tear a piece from the printed tissue paper and glue it down to your background using the matte medium.
- **Step 9:** Cover the glued down piece with a thin layer of matte medium. This is what makes the paper transparent.
- **Step 10:** Then tear another piece of tissue paper and glue it down overlapping the first piece. You will notice that all the areas where there is no paint will turn transparent revealing the layers underneath.
 - Continue this way until the background is covered and you are satisfied with the result.
- **Step 11:** Don't you just love how you can see all the layers on top of each other and still have vibrant colors? Now your background is ready and you can use it for whatever you like, whether it is art journal pages, cards, ATCs, or use the technique on wood, glass, and cardboard boxes.



Image Transferring

with Birgit Koopsen

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) demonstrate the ability to hand transfer images

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students transfer images from one paper to the other with the use of brayers and gelli plates?

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® 8×10 Gel Printing Plate
- Acrylic paints

- Brayer
- Found objects as texture tools
- Homemade texture rollers
- Watercolor paper
- Laser prints or photo copies of your photographs (not inkjet)
- Gel medium
- Soft brush
- Bank or gift card
- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Bowl of water
- Completed Gelli Arts® backgrounds

STEP-BY-STEP

Part 1: Creating Backgrounds

- First, pick your colors. If you want your prints to be bright and vibrant, stay away from dark colors like black, dark blue, dark green. Add neon colors for extra vibrancy.
- Then, decide which tools you want to use to create marks, patterns, and textures. You can make your own rollers by covering toilet paper rolls with bubble wrap, punchinella, and self-adhesive craft foam. You can also use found objects, such as the inside of a chocolate box or other packing material. Don't forget to use your favorite stamps and stencils!
- Make a stack of colorful and vibrant backgrounds using watercolor paper, which is the perfect paper for image transfers. Start with color only, no patterns yet.
- Start by covering your backgrounds with 2 or 3 light colors like yellow, pink, and orange and then later add patterns in darker colors, this way you will keep the light colors vibrant.
- Once you have a nice stack of printed papers, move on to doing patterns, marks, and texture, but make sure to leave some spaces open for the image transfers.

Part 2: Beautiful Image Transfers on Gelli Arts® Gel Printed Backgrounds

- **Step 1:** Pick one of your favorite backgrounds.
- **Step 2:** Cut out the picture you want to use.
- **Step 3:** Apply a thin layer of matte medium to both the background and the right side of the picture.

Image Transfer Lesson Continued:

- **Step 4:** Place the picture, right side down on the background.
- **Step 5:** Use the bank card to remove any excess matte medium and air bubbles from the picture.
- **Step 6:** Let it dry! Use your patience!
- **Step 7:** Once the background is dry, use water and your fingers to rub away all the paper from the photo.
- **Step 8:** Finally, cover the image with a thin layer of matte medium.



Cacti Name Placeholders

with Giovanna Zara

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able TO (SWBAT) create cacti themed name holders
- SWBAT demonstrate typography when writing names on the holders
- SWBAT master the making process by following the needed order in which to make their name holders

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What are the uses of a themed kit?

- How can you use a theme when planning a party?
- What is the order needed to create name placeholders properly?

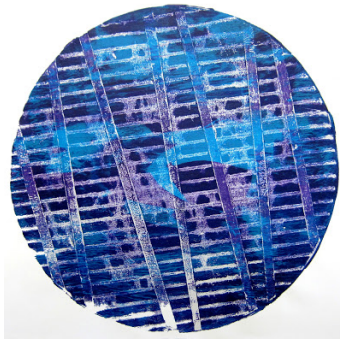
SUPPLIES

- GelliArts® Cacti Kit
- Scissors
- Pencil or Marker
- Tacky Glue
- Additional popsicle sticks if you require more than the given 12 within the kit

STEP BY STEP

- *This lesson is created under the assumption students have printed with a GelliArts® plate beforehand.
- **Step 1:** Create Prints by using the supplies found within your GelliArts® Cacti Kit to make colorful prints for your cacti plants and pots by following the instructions found within it.
- **Step 2:** Trace and cut out your plants and pots with either the templates provided within the kits or freehand draw them
- **Step 3:** Proceed to cut out the cacti shapes and pots for assembly.
- **Step 4:** Add names and other creative elements to your pots, such as small designs and shapes.
- **Step 5:** Glue plants to their pots.
- **Step 6:** Glue assembled potted plants to their own popsicle sticks.

This lesson can be adapted to a variety of themes and designs not just for cacti. But this lesson is also used to display the flexibility of one of our kits (the Cacti Printing Kit).



Cardboard Texture Plates

with Joan Bess

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) make their own unique reusable texture plates for printmaking.
- SWBAT create monoprints using a textured cardboard plates.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is texture?
- Why is it important to recycle items?

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® plate
- Brayer
- Paint
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Craft knife
- Pointy tool (knitting needle, awl, or tweezers)
- Scissors
- Glue

STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** We recommend using either cardboard cake circles or regular corrugated cardboard with brown kraft paper on one side — and shiny white paper on the other (and using the kraft paper side for cleaner cuts). Now, either draw your design on the cardboard free hand or use some type of template.
- **Step 2:** Cut along the drawn lines. Don't cut all the way through the bottom layer — just the top. I tend to cut through the corrugated layer too — it's hard to avoid — and that's okay. It also helps to mark the sections you want to remove.
- **Step 3:** Cut your design through the top layer of the cardboard with a craft knife. Then remove sections of the top layer of paper — revealing the stripes below.
 - To remove a cut section of the top layer of the cardboard — carefully pull it up. It helps to slip a pointed tool, like a knitting needle or an awl, into a 'valley' under the area you wish to remove. That helps lift the paper — revealing the striped corrugated paper underneath.
 - TIP: The top paper does not usually come off cleanly. So, while pulling the paper up, I run an awl or knitting needle along the edge of the 'mountains' to help release the paper. A tweezer comes in very handy to pull up any small or stubborn remaining pieces.
- **Step 4:** As you're tearing and removing the top paper, you may want to leave some of the peeled paper remnants that stick to the corrugated 'mountain' part of the cardboard. The torn paper remnants can create a more organic look in your prints.
 - You can also trace a stencil onto the cardboard and use that as your guide for carving the cardboard! Cut along the lines and remove the top layer of paper — leaving the areas that are the 'holes' in the stencil — to create your pattern.
- **Step 5:** Add layers! Cardstock, chipboard, or manila folders are all great paper materials to use for adding shapes to your cardboard substrate. You want to be sure to glue any papers securely to the cardboard so they don't come off while printing. Tacky glue works well.

Cardboard Texture Plate Lesson Continued:

- You can create interesting printed images by gluing torn paper, hand-cut shapes, die-cuts and punched pieces to your cardboard plate.
- Punching holes into the cardboard plate with an awl will create dots in your printed image.

Printing with Texture Plates:

- **Step 1:** Apply acrylic paint to your Gelli Arts® plate and roll into thin layer with a brayer.
- **Step 2:** Press your cardboard plate firmly into the wet paint — and remove.
- **Step 3:** Place your printing paper on the Gelli Arts® plate, rub to transfer the paint — and pull your print!



Wrapping Paper

with Joan Bess

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) use stamps to decorate holiday wrapping paper.
- SWBAT create patterns with another student.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is a pattern?
- Can you create a pattern?
- How can you work with a partner to create a pattern?
- Would working with someone else be easy or difficult? Explain.

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® Mini Stamps
- Brayers
- Acrylic paint in multiple colors
- Mark making tools
- Stencils
- Surface to print such as a roll of paper (teacher choice)
- Newsprint, masking tape (to tape newsprint to table)
- Pencils

STEP-BY-STEP

- **Note: This lesson is created until the assumption students know how to use a Gelli Arts® printing plate prior to this lesson.*
- **Step 1:** Working together, the students will create a piece of holiday wrapping paper. Starting this process requires the students to plan together on the following:
 - Theme, color, imagery, pattern/layout
- **Step 2:** They will use the Gelli Arts® Mini Plates for stamping, create different designs, and stamp on the wrapping paper.
 - Introduction steps to printing with a mini plate being:
 - (Recommended, not required) Putting your mini plate on a piece of glass or plexi
 - Putting a small amount of paint on your plate
 - Rolling out the paint with a brayer
 - (Optional) Using mark making tools or stencils to create pattern and texture either on the plate or placing it on the paper before pressing down the plate
 - Press the gel plate onto desired location on paper
- **Step 3:** The students will create a pattern with multiple passes of using the mini plates and other mark making tools such as pens, markers, paint, etc



Watercolor Prints

with Stephanie Barr

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) use watercolor to build layers of colors.
- SWBAT create their own backgrounds and contour lines.
- SWBAT define contour lines.

SUPPLIES

- 5×5 Gelli Arts® plate
- Liquid watercolor in spray bottles
- Permanent fine point black markers
- Small flat/round brushes
- 6×6 white paper

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is a contour line?

STEP-BY-STEP:

- **Step 1:** Students will choose from several different wild flower line drawings to use as a guide for their project.
- **Step 2:** Students will trace the lines of the drawing with their index finger without lifting it to practice before ever using the markers.
- **Step 3:** Using the Gelli® plate and the watercolors, students will lightly spray their plate with the liquid watercolor and then lay their 6×6 white paper over it, rubbing firmly for several seconds to allow the paper to absorb the watercolor.
- **Step 4:** Lift the paper to reveal the watercolor background
- **Step 5:** While the background prints are drying the students use a pencil and paper to practice contour drawings of the wildflowers they have chosen.
- **Step 6:** Students complete their contour drawings using a black permanent marker on their dry watercolor background print.
- Steps five and six can be reversed depending on your class time and management style.
- **Step 7:** Once the contour drawing is complete, spray a drop or two of chosen colors onto the Gelli Arts® plate to use as a palette. Students will very loosely fill in the petals, stem, and leaves of each flower with a tiny brush and the watercolor

MOTIVATION AND DEMONSTRATION

Show students line drawings of wildflowers from various sources. Talk about contour drawings and how to create them without lifting the marker. Demonstrate how to create a contour drawing and how to use the Gelli Arts® plate. Note: because of the edges created by the watercolors on the Gelli Arts® plate, this lesson could easily be turned into a Postage Stamp design lesson.



Printing Masks

with Birgit Koopsen

OBJECTIVE

- Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT) design their own prints
- SWBAT demonstrate a mastery of creating masks with the use of cardstock paper

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- How can students create their own masks?
- What are the steps to creating your own masks using cardstock?

STEP-BY-STEP

This will show you how to create a complete “painting” using handmade stencils and masks on the Gelli Arts® plate.

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® 8×10 Gel Printing Plate
- Acrylic paints
- Brayer
- Pencil
- Cardstock paper
- Craft knife or scissors

- **Step 1:** First, you have to create a drawing of the image you want to print and you have to think carefully about the layers you want to create. Some advice would be to try some easy prints first to get the hang of the process as it involves some thinking to get it right. You could start with three or four layers and easy shapes before making it a bit difficult.
- **Step 2:** When your drawing is done you have to mark the separate shapes with numbers corresponding with separate layers.
- **Step 3:** Use the number one for the top layer – these are the shapes that are not overlapped by anything else. They will appear the closest to you in the final image. Then, use the number two for the shapes that are only overlapped by number one. Number three for the shapes that are overlapped by ones and twos. Continue in this fashion until every shape has been numbered.
- **Step 4:** Make copies of your drawing for every layer. If there are four layers, you will need four copies of your drawing.
- **Step 5:** From the first copy, cut out all the shapes marked with the number one. From the second copy, all the shapes with number two, and so on. You have to use a craft knife, as you will need both the stencil and the mask to create your prints.
- **Step 6:** Place the original drawing underneath your Gelli Arts® gel printing plate. It is clear so you will be able to see the drawing underneath the plate.
- **Step 7:** Start with placing stencil number one on top of the Gelli Arts® plate, lining it up with the complete drawing underneath the plate. Apply the first color and then remove the stencil.
- **Step 8:** Now line up the paper you want to print on exactly with the paper underneath the Gelli Arts® plate and pull the print.
- **Step 9:** Place stencil number one back on the Gelli Arts® plate and repeat the previous steps until all the shapes of the first layer are done.

- **Step 10:** Once all the shapes of the first layer are printed you have to mask them with the parts you cut from the stencil. Use a repositionable adhesive to apply the masks to the print you are working on. Make sure the paint is dry before you do so.
- **Step 11:** Now it's time to print the second layer. Place stencil number two on the Gelli Arts® plate, apply the paint, remove the stencil, and make the print on your masks paper. Again make sure you line up the paper exactly with the drawing underneath the Gelli Arts® plate.
- **Step 12:** Complete all the steps for stencil number two before you move on to layer number three. Mask both layer number one and number two before you start printing layer number three and so on.
- **Step 13:** Repeat this process for all the layers.
- **Step 14:** If you like, you can add texture to the different shapes too.
- **Step 15:** The very last layer will be your background and then the printing is done.
- **Step 16:** You can now leave it as it is and frame it, but of course you can also stamp, doodle, write, and paint on top of your print. Even the simplest prints can be beautiful pieces of art.



Decoupage Organizers

with Marsha Valk

OBJECTIVE

- Student Will Be Able To (SWBAT) manipulate parchment paper into a creative material for design
- SWBAT design their own organizer with colorful paints, patterns, and textures

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- Can students use parchment paper to make prints?

SUPPLIES

- Gelli Arts® mini printing plates
- Parchment paper
- Brayer
- Stencils
- Acrylic paints
- Cosmetic sponge
- Rubber stamps
- Waterproof stamping ink (StazOn)
- Wooden magazine file (IKEA)
- Sandpaper
- Gesso

STEP-BY-STEP

- **Step 1:** You can either make masks for printing either by using premade paper die-cuts, an electronic die-cutting machine, or creating your own by hand.
- **Step 2:** Roll acrylic paint out onto the GelliArts® gel printing plate with a brayer, place the paper stencil on top and pull a print with the parchment paper.
- **Step 3:** Use a brayer to roll paint out on a craft sheet (or another sheet of parchment paper). Then use the brayer to transfer the paint onto the GelliArts® mini gel printing plate of your choice.
- **Step 4:** Place a die-cut or mask on top of the parchment paper and stamp with the Gelli Arts® mini gel printing plate over the die-cut.
- **Step 5:** Use your favorite tools to make marks all over the sheet of parchment paper.
- **Step 6:** Use any of the left over rolled out paint to stamp images with (cling) rubber or foam stamps.
 - Don't let any paint dry on the stamps. Clean the stamps immediately or keep a bowl of water nearby to temporarily keep them in until you are ready to clean the paint off.
- **Step 7:** Gesso and then lightly sand a store-bought wooden magazine file or any other object you'd like to alter.
 - The surface of the object needs to be as smooth as possible.
- **Step 8:** Tear the printed parchment paper into smaller pieces.
- **Step 9:** Brush enough decoupage glue, such as Mod Podge, onto the magazine file for one or two pieces of parchment paper at a time.
- **Step 10:** Place a piece of parchment paper on top of the glue and then brush over the paper to adhere, burnish and seal it at the same time. Let each new piece of parchment paper overlap the previously adhered piece.
- **Step 11:** Repeat until the file organizer is covered completely.
 - Leave the glue to dry completely. Trim the edges if necessary and then put the Gelli Arts® gel printed organizer file on display in your home or anywhere!