



Rocky Mountain Hi Artists

January 2026 Newsletter

President's Message-Ginny Sparlin

Hi Ladies,

Hope everyone is doing well and had a good holiday season. We just put the last of the Christmas decorations up into the top of my garage, halleluiah! I love Christmas but I also love getting the decorations cleared out and put away. My daughter told me it's too early to start decorating for Spring. I just saw a decoration we forgot. I'll have to get it put away, but not today.....

Well, everyone, you probably noticed, we decided to make our project for January a U.F.O. (unfinished object). We thought it was a good idea since we've gotten snowed out for so many of our January meetings. So now you have the chance to pull out one (or more) painting projects you've started, also bring the paint you need to finish it. Be sure you have the proper brushes your pattern calls for, etc. Probably ought to bring the pattern instructions too, just saying..... Anyway, we can all sit and gab and maybe finish a project (or two?) and enjoy the day. Plus, if you are stuck on a step in your project, there will be several teachers in the group who can help you understand what you need to do. We're all here to help, and we want you to enjoy painting and be happy with your finished project.

If you don't have an unfinished project (Ha!) you are welcome to come and enjoy the time with friends, there will probably be snacks involved. Just a reminder, remember dues are due if you haven't sent them to Linda, (like me) you can bring them to the meeting, Saturday January 17, 10:am, Garden Plaza.

Hope to see you all there, maybe it won't snow.....

Ginny Sparlin

Monthly Program Report-Deb Poster

We've had a great year with some fun projects. I'd like to thank every one of you for sharing your ideas and for attending the meetings to try some of the techniques and projects that were offered. I want to remind you all that even if you don't want to do the project, we all enjoy visiting and laughing and eating the goodies that we share. If you are stuck on a previous project, bring it and there will be someone to help you. These are called UFO's (Unfinished Objects). I have so many of these that I look forward to time away from home to work on them!

Our meeting days will remain the third Saturday of each month. We start at 10am and end at 2pm for 4 hours of painting. Please feel free to bring a guest!
Location is still Garden Plaza!

Our winter seems to be starting out very slow this year. That may mean January will come in strong and hard.

- January 17 UFOs: I'm sure some of you need to finish a project or two
- February 21. Tangled Penguins or Cat-Patterns to be sent out as the February meeting approaches.



- March 21. Mini Landscapes
- April 18
- May 16. Pig
- June, July, August. Summer Paint Party collage on canvas using texture, napkins, stencils to create background for a single flower of your choice
- September 19

 October 17

We have several open dates hopefully we will have a gourd project. Gourds will be brought to January and February meetings to be chosen. First come, first served.

If you would like to offer or suggest a project you can text me at 720-217-2383

Respectfully,

Debbie Poster

Tole Chatter-Melinda Barnes

Between the Vines... Jamie has some adorable Spring patterns with bunnies you must see. :)
<https://www.betweenthevines.com/index.php>

Sweet Home Christmas Alabama... This new convention is June 31 - 27 this year. All the details can be seen on the link below.

<https://online.anyflip.com/iganm/txda/mobile/index.html>

Lizbeth Stull - Cottage Cabuttle... She shared an Amazon link for Ornament Goodies if you're interested.

https://www.amazon.com/shop/cottagecaboodle-lisbethstull/list/28R7W8NOQYDT7?ref_=cm_sw_r_ud_aipslist_BREB8JZF6T01VB6WVABV&cs_id=638d8532-3ed5-4850-b9df-b88dba0b18c2

Willowbank Crafts... Bev Hall has some cute patterns and cute class for \$10 toward the end of January.

<https://willowbankcrafts.com/>

Carol Craig... Lots of classes and nice designs. She is a storm chaser when tornados are active! Follow Carol on Facebook if you are interested.

<https://www.carolcraigcreations.com/>

Maureen Baker... She has a new website. She has sales and classes. Maureen also teaches painting videos on Facebook.

<https://maureen-baker.com/>

Just Fine Designs ... Sandy Lefore has a cute free pattern available I don't know how long it will be available. Scroll down on her website to find it.

<https://www.justfinedesigns.com/shop.html>

Pacific Decorative Painters Expo... April 29-May 2, 2026 Registration is now open and I've seen some really good classes offered.

<https://www.pacificdpexpo.com/>

TRACY MOREAU'S SPOT

Did you know....

While art history often focuses on paint or sculpture, there are huge number of famous artists that used pastels.... Edgar Degas, an artist who is historically most connected with pastels is considered the artist most responsible for its transformation into a major medium. When he began working with pastels, they were primarily used for portraits and often as precursors to complete oil paintings. Degas, however, created a very large body of finished pastel drawings. He worked in pastel throughout his career and in 1880 it became his primary medium. The artist often combined it with other media such as watercolor, oil, and monotype, creating rich surfaces with a variety of paint qualities applied in complex layers.

Did you know....

A Christmas card is a greeting card sent as part of the traditional celebration of Christmas in order to convey between people a range of sentiments related to Christmastide and the holiday season. Christmas cards are usually exchanged during the weeks preceding Christmas Day by many people (including some non-Christians) in Western society and in Asia. The traditional greeting reads "wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year". There are innumerable variations on this greeting, many cards expressing more religious sentiment, or containing a poem, prayer, Christmas song lyrics or Biblical verse; others focus on the general holiday season with an all-inclusive "Season's greeting".

The first known Christmas card, was sent by Michael Maier to James I of England and his son Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales in 1611. It was discovered in 1979 by Adam McLean in the Scottish Record Office. It was hand-made and incorporated Rosicrucian imagery, with the words of the greeting – "A greeting on the birthday of the Sacred King, to the most worshipful and energetic lord and most eminent James, King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Defender of the true faith, with a gesture of joyful celebration of the Birthday of the Lord, in most Joy and fortune, we enter into the new auspicious year 1612" – being laid out to form a rose.

The first commercially available card was commissioned by Sir Henry Cole and designed by John Callcott Horsley in London 1843. The central picture showed three generations of a family

raising a toast to the card's recipient: on either side were scenes of charity, with food and clothing being given to the poor.

Painting Tip... Crackling

I think we all have that ONE medium or product , that never seems to work for us, and a friend that says " Oh It NEVER Fails for me!" Does any of this sound familiar? Let me guess....
CRACKLE MEDIUMS!!

I LOVE crackle mediums! and NONE of them fail for me.... because I know the secrets.

DECO ART AMERICANA WEATHERED WOOD is the most commonly used among us decorative painters, so let's start with that.

1. Generous EVEN coat of the medium on a Raw, Stained or Painted surface. (The thicker it is the bigger the Cracks...but there is such thing as too much)
2. Let it dry until it's Just dry. (even a little tacky is fine) But not over night! 2 or 3 hrs. is usually enough.
3. Apply the top coat of paint. and this is the fun part. Use a sponge, a brush, or a roller, but whatever you use... Be generous. (Lots pf paint) Just get it on and don't go over where you have already been. (I Love sponges for this part, because it is easy to keep the top coat uniform.) The Cracks will begin to appear immediately. As it continues to dry, the more pronounced the cracks will become.
4. LEAVE IT ALONE! Give the crackle 24 hrs. to dry fully before you do anything over it. Otherwise, your pretty paint work over top. will crack too:(that's fine if it's what you want, but nearly impossible to get it uniform)

Note: If you use a Sponge or a roller , you will get a crazed effect (the cracks run in all directions) If you use a brush, the cracks follow the direction of the brush strokes.

TIP: DON'T try to force dry crackle medium... it will do weird things and you may not like it...Just let it air dry for the best results.

If Crackle is something you only use once in a while...Check your jar from time to time , for Crystals in the bottom of the jar.. if you find them, the medium is likely too old and will be unreliable at best.

Painting Tip: Decoupage.

DecouPage is a technique that is more than 1000 Years old.... Thought to have originated in eastern Siberia by Nomadic Tribes it is often found decorating the Tombs of their dead.

Over the years it has taken on a more light hearted feel, and the process made simpler and more durable with more modern materials. I have used many different products but I have 2 favorites DecoArts "Decoupage" And DecoArt Media Matt Medium.

A Few Things Needed for Good Decoupage aside from Pretty (quality) Fabrics, Papers or Napkins, and A Good Quality Decoupage Medium.

- 1: Very Sharp Pointed Scissors
- 2: Exacto Knife
- 3: Soft brush
- 4: Small mister bottle full of water
- 5: Small Brayer or Paint Bottle
- 6: Band-Aids
- 7: Your Creativity!

DecoArt decoupage and matt Medium both work exceptionally well for this technique.

- *Paint or seal the surface you are intending to decoupage.
(make it Smoooooth)
- * Apply a generous but even coat of The medium
- * Moisten the paper (or fabric) on both sides with the mister.
- * Lay it into the medium and smooth out with your fingers tips
- * Roll Over the paper with a paint bottle or a brayer (seats the paper well into the medium.
- * Apply a thin even coat over the Entire Surface. Let it Dry Well, Re-coat as needed.

Paper stretches when wet, so spraying it beforehand , helps prevent bubbles and ripples, and produces a nice tight and smooth finish when dry.

Tracy shares her talent with a free project almost every Saturday on Facebook and YouTube.com.

Tracy's website: <https://tracymoreau.net/>

Computer Security...

Holiday shoppers targeted by account takeovers, warn Amazon and the FBI

Trends point to a clear shift. Cybercriminals are increasingly focusing on operating systems beyond Windows, combining advanced techniques and social engineering tailored specifically to mobile and macOS.

Melinda

Sunshine Report-Karon Sorensen

We want to send best wishes to the following

Cec Ray, January 20

Kelly Ferguson January 24



Sympathy, love, and prayers to Kate Dowd on the loss of her husband,

