

WORKSHOP: "BUTTERFLY DIORAMAS"



Summary: Participants each created a collage on a 5"x5" gallery board with a 3" metallic 3D butterfly sticker placed somewhere on their board. Participants drew inspiration for their embellishments from a wonderful lady leaving the organization and a collage of boards was created as a gift. The boards were embellished using leftover materials and techniques learned in previous workshops (e.g. pop can flowers, paper transfers, mosaic). Gallery boards were gathered together, joined with brackets and a hanger on the back.

Materials and Equipment:

5"x5" gallery board
acrylic paints and brushes
gel medium
sludge primer
ruler
buttons assorted sizes and colours
fancy paper
scissors
glue gun and glue
cardboard for under glue gun
coloured glue gun glue
coated gloves
fabric scraps
yarn
found objects (not provided)
grout, gloves
glass drops, pebbles, tile scraps
beads
cutting mat self healing
corner ruler
picture frame wire
matching screw driver
popsicle sticks
instructions/ideas sheet

3" metallic 3D butterfly sticker
pencil, eraser, sharpener
sketch paper
clean sand
palette knife
small pieces of artificial flowers/plants
foam brush
t-shirt scraps
plastic lids for palettes or foil
plastic container for water
mirrored embellishments (tiny mirrors)
pliers/cutters
colourful wires
safety glasses
high tack wood glue and white glue
sponge
pop cans and tin snips
x-acto knife
hammer, nail set, small nails
extension cord
D-rings and screws
skewers
mini glass bottles
artwork samples

Class Plan:

1. Use any technique you enjoy to embellish your 5"x5" gallery board. Choose which side you'd like to work on, on your gallery board. The open side has a nice shelf for attaching objects and a window effect. Leave

at least one side without attachments for joining to other gallery boards.

2. Include your 3" metallic 3D butterfly sticker somewhere in your design. It can be placed inside the open side of your gallery board, on the front, side, top or on a wire extending out from your gallery board.



- a. Complete any embellishments behind your butterfly first then use the adhesive pad to attach it. Use a small amount of hot glue if needed (wearing protective gloves).
3. Paint any part of your background you want painted first or decide to leave it plain.
 - a. If you are doing a light wash of colour and want the wood to show do not prime first.
 - b. If you are painting your entire board, applying a coat of sludge primer first will help your paint stick.
 - c. You could use 2-3 colours painting them on at the same time, same brush without mixing them first. This gives a nice incomplete blend of colours covering all or part of your surface.
4. Attach decorative paper:
 - a. Cut your paper to size first. Try cutting a shaped paper border and only cover part of your surface.
 - b. Spread a thin even layer of gel medium on your surface, gently press your paper in place and smooth it from the centre to the edges.
5. Consider attaching objects to your gallery board to set a scene or add to your theme. This could include found objects repurposed to reflect a memory, idea or wish for the future. Artificial flowers could make a garden for your butterfly.
6. Consider using any of the techniques and materials from previous workshops.
 - a. Try covering the inside of the open side of your gallery board with mosaic and glass pieces from the mosaic on glass workshop.
 - b. Try making flowers or people by combining wire and pieces of cut up pop cans.
 - c. Use paper clay or air dry clay to create a little table and put a button teapot on it.
 - d. Use buttons in novel shapes for a scene or in many colours and sizes to create a picture or shape.
 - e. Wood burn a pattern on the thick part of the gallery board (not the thin part to avoid making a hole).
7. **Project Example: Travel Messages**
 - a. Coat the entire gallery board with sludge primer.



- b. Paint the gallery board outside edges green and the inside pale blue and white for sky.



- c. Mix beige and light brown paint with clean sand and spread it on the lower edge of the gallery board to look like sand.



- d. Cut and roll up a tiny piece of travel words paper and insert it into a little glass bottle with a cork.



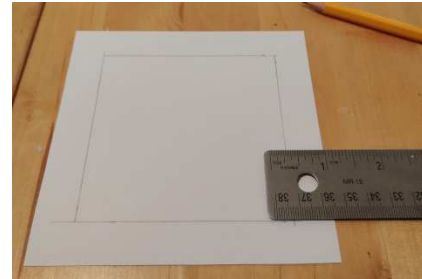
- e. Roughen the inside of the glass and the base with coarse sandpaper where the cork sits.



- f. Glue the cork in place with high tack wood glue.



- g. Cut fancy paper with travel words to cover the front edges surface of the board.



- h. Spread gel medium on the front edges of the gallery board. Gently press the paper in place, smoothing from the centre towards the edges.
- i. Mix clear beads with gloss gel medium and apply them to the shelf back edge with a palette knife to look like waves.



- j. Attach the bottle message and butterfly to the gallery board open space with hot glue.



- k. Attach artificial flowers wearing protective gloves, holding them with pliers and applying hot glue to

the bottoms. Press them in place until the glue cools.



8. Project Example: Field of Flowers

- a. Paint the whole gallery board with sludge primer and allow it to dry. This can be sped up with a hair dryer on a cool setting.
- b. Paint the gallery board with blue and white acrylic paint on the top third, loosely mixing the colours as you apply them. Paint the lower two thirds in green and yellow with upward strokes for foliage. Don't mix the paints before applying, but load more than one colour on the brush together.



- c. Hot glue luminous green flower beads along the top edge of your green paint. Hold the beads with pliers when gluing. Tip the gallery board on its side to glue beads on the inside edges.



- d. Wearing safety glasses and protective coated gloves, cut a large flat piece of sheet metal out of a yellow pop can to make into flowers. The cut edges can be sharp so avoid touching them.



- e. Cut several rectangles out of the sheet of yellow pop can, about 1" high by 3" long.



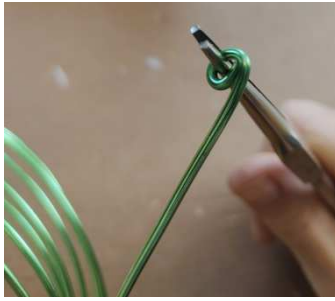
- f. Cut slits all along the long edges of the rectangles. If you are right handed cut slits from right to left. If you are left handed cut from left to right.



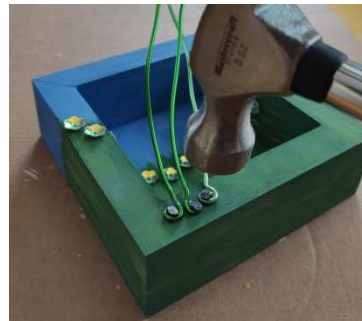
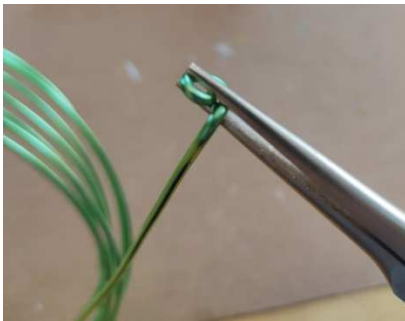
- g. Flat roll the rectangles with the yellow side on the inside. Hammer a pilot hole using a larger nail in the end that doesn't have slits in it, hammering onto a scrap piece of wood.



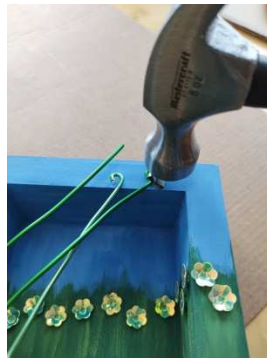
- h. Cut three pieces of green wire about 1.1/2" taller than the height of the gallery board. Twist a loop in the end of each.



- i. Bend the loop on one end of each green wire stem perpendicular (left image) and fit a nail through it (centre). Nail these ends to the bottom edge of your gallery board (right).



- j. Nail each yellow metal flower roll through the pilot hole, through the loop end of a green wire into the top thick part of your gallery board. Use a nail set to make this easier.



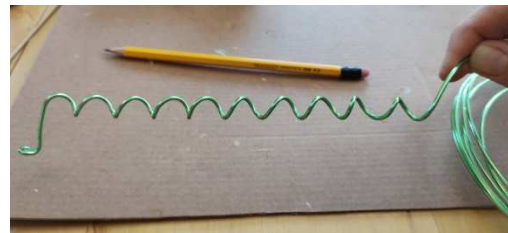
- k. Bend down the cut edges of your yellow metal flower roll. Tuck the back pieces behind the flower.



- l. Nail 3-4 nails into the top of each flower to make the centre of the flower. Use a nail set to help.



- m. Optional: attach your butterfly on a spiral wire
- Make a tight loop in each end of a green wire.
 - Wrap green wire around a skewer or pencil to create a spiral. Slide the pencil out.



- Attach the wire at one end to the gallery board with a small nail.
- Attach the other end of the wire to the back of a butterfly sticker, applying hot glue, then attaching wire, then applying a bit more hot glue.



- n. Attach a butterfly to the edge of your gallery board with hot glue if you aren't making a spiral wire.
9. We are creating a retirement thank you and we'll miss you gift for a wonderful lady leaving Amethyst. If you would like to donate your collage to have it joined with other participants' collages, please return it to Amethyst. This is totally optional, and you can definitely keep your creation if you prefer.
10. For the group collage, gallery boards will be joined on the back with brackets and a wall hanger attached.
11. Happy creating, and please share pictures of your creations if you feel comfortable.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- Try wood burning on the thick parts of your gallery board.
- Try making a tiny table out of a tiny piece of a stick and a log slice. Add novelty buttons in the shapes of a

teapot and cups to the table. Use hot glue to attach artificial plants and flowers around the table for tea in the jungle.

- Save old jewelry, like a necklace with small wood fish. Take the necklace apart, paint your board and use the fish to make an aquarium gallery board.

Trouble Shooting:

- If the hot glue doesn't stick, try roughening the surfaces you are gluing with coarse sandpaper first and/or switch to high tack wood glue.