

Turquoise SISTERHOOD

by Norma Kooi



Sally Casper

Every month, I have the pleasure of gathering with like-minded women where we share good food, good company, and good discussions about art. During these get-togethers, we also create artwork. These gatherings have created a sisterhood of sorts, where each month a different gal hosts the event so we can have the opportunity to see each others' homes and meet one another's families.

The hostess develops an art project for the group, which can be almost anything ... jewelry, bookmaking, collage, or painting. If the selected project is not of interest for a member of the group, she has the option of bringing a different project in-progress and work on that, instead of embarking on a brand new one that the hostess introduces. It's really about the

sisterhood of art, rather than the rules for any given project.

For our gathering this past January, I happened to be the hostess. And the only project guideline that I had for the group was for our works to incorporate the color turquoise somewhere in our creations. I set up an 8-foot table and emptied out all my fabric and paper scraps, ephemera, and buttons. I plugged in my favorite little 12-inch Hello Kitty sewing machine that lives on the dining room table and set out to create. It was a beautiful day and we spread out throughout the house until it was time for a dinner break — the perfect time to read through some Stampington & Company magazines and catch our second wind.



Michelle Facsina

Through these meetings, I've learned that women need support from one another ... whether it is to critique our current art project or express concern over a family illness, or to bounce ideas for new projects. We are there for each other if only to listen, smile, laugh, and occasionally shed a tear. Sometimes these sessions are reminders to be grateful for all the things we have in our lives. Friends. Art. Health.

These monthly gatherings — which start at 10:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning and go all the way through the evening — provide me with the only hours in my life that I'm not thinking about cleaning, cooking, paying bills, doing laundry, budget, employees, and my job. I am blessed to have these women in my life and I enjoy focusing on letting each of them know how much they mean to me. "Sisterhood" is the best word to describe how I feel about having the opportunity to become friends with each of them.





Norma Kooi



Daphni Willard has a flair for drawing. She also makes the sweetest canvas collages incorporating family photos and her love of birds. For the piece shown here, Daphni used fabrics, papers, and photographs to collage prom queen personas. She used a black ink pen to add details and colored pencils to add whispers of added color. These personas were created on a piece of white cardstock that she layered onto coordinating papers and fabrics that were encased in a shadow box.

Michelle Facsina owns Rainbow's End Quilt Shoppe, a fabric store in Dunedin, Florida. She is a fabric goddess who can throw together anything made of fabric and make it look romantic. For her piece, Michelle used thick batting as the base, upon which she layered small fabric scraps, including a fabric ribbon topped with a fabric rose. Vintage ephemera pieces were also added. The entire piece was backed by an Eiffel Tower-patterned fabric that she encased in a shadow box.





Sally Casper created an art quilt with a medley of blue and pink fabric scraps that were fused with assorted machine stitches onto a larger piece of muslin. The two birds were cutouts from fabric that she stitched with an added layer of batting to create added dimension. The entire art quilt became mounted on a script alphabet fabric.

And for my piece ... well ... I love fabric probably more than anything (with paper holding a close second). For this piece I layered gorgeous fabrics, adding stamped images in a triad of focal piece tags. I added findings over these tags for a touch of vintage flair.

Each of the gals in our sisterhood have migrated to Florida from other parts of the country to create the lives that we now lead. And the one thing that we all have in common is art. It is what brought us together and what keeps us together.

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