

GHOST RANCH



Education & Retreat Center

WELCOME LETTER

Exploring Mixed Media and Collage

Instructor: Kelly Finnerty

Start Date: 7/7/19

End Date: 7/13/19

Check-In Begins at 3:00pm at the Welcome Center
on 7/7/19. Dinner 5:30 – 6:30;
Orientation 6:45 pm

Invitation: Having a hard time deciding which art medium is your favorite? You don't have to choose just one. Join me in the Exploring Mixed Media and Collage workshop where we will sample and combine a wide variety of materials and mediums. Experimentation is encouraged! This is no risk art. You don't need to worry about making a mistake - it's all about the making. Mixed media collage is a forgiving art form that allows you to layer and alter images as you follow your intuition. You will be introduced to a creative practice that is both meaningful and playful, inspired by the amazing landscape of Ghost Ranch.

Instructor Background: I love working with people of all ages to expand their sense of their creative abilities. I have done this work as a California Artist in Schools and Communities, through the development of museum and exhibits and programs at the Science Museum of Minnesota and Minnesota Children's Museum and more recently, as a psychotherapist, using expressive arts in the treatment of trauma. I have found that a regular creative practice is an essential ingredient for my own growth and sanity and I love the freedom of mixed media collage! Sharing what I have learned with others and learning from my students is pure joy. Currently I am working on a series of found books altered with collage.

Provided Materials: I will provide: paper of various weights and colors, bleeding tissue paper in multiple colors, soil and chalk pastels, water soluble crayons, graphite and color pencils (w/c and non), water color and acrylic paint, adhesives: Modge Podge, gel mediums, pastes, stamps, markers, scissors, exacto knives, found images

What to Bring: Favorite pens and related tools; Notebook; Personal images and ephemera that can be cut and pasted.

FAQs: Q: Do you need to be able to draw? A: No. We will draw as a tool for observation. We will draw to loosen our hands. Drawing will not be judged by the criteria of being realistic.

Q: Do you need to have prior art experience? A: No. This is great introductory experience for the novice and it is also an opportunity for those who are more experienced to branch out and try something new.

Testimonials:

"I felt my wings released."

"Wonderful class. The teacher was inspiring. The class filled me with joy!"

"Kelly created a safe, nurturing environment to explore mixed media art."

"Great inspiration in the first days and plenty of time to play with watercolor, acrylic, oil pastels and chalk, I learned so much!"

"We talked, read, danced, painted, laughed. The participants bonded into friends and felt like artists!"

"I'd take this class again!"

“Kelly was a wonderful instructor!! Very supportive and affirming with novice artists-me! She allowed us to meet our personal needs. She is great! A delightful and warm person and terrific instructor!”

“What a great class!”

“I would highly recommend this class to anyone who wants to learn about art, process in art and about themselves- all in a welcoming environment- and have a lot of fun and freedom doing it!”

Recommended Resources: Start doing some image searches for mixed media and collage artists. If you like, print some examples that speak to you and bring them to share. I love Romare Bearden's work. It's great place to start!