

Create / Layer / Transform

Transform the Surface: A Workshop in Acrylic, Collage & Mark-Making

5-Day Workshop with Lisa Pressman

This immersive five-day workshop invites artists to embrace a materials-first, process-rich approach to image-making. Through an intuitive sequence of creating, layering, and transforming, you'll generate a large body of work while exploring the expressive potential of surface, texture, and mark.

We begin with acrylic monotypes—using plate-based techniques (such as gelli printing) to produce a library of vibrant, textured papers. These become the foundation for collage-based compositions that evolve through tearing, cutting, assembling, and rearranging.

As your surfaces take shape, we'll shift into embellishment: working back in with R&F Pigment Sticks®, pastels, graphite, Posca pens, and other mixed media to deepen contrast, rhythm, and personal gesture. You'll explore both intuitive and formal strategies for building depth, movement, and meaning.

Expect to:

- Work in multiples to loosen perfectionism and discover recurring motifs
- Use color, line, and shape to build dynamic compositions
- Explore your personal visual language through guided prompts and experimentation
- Receive individual feedback and engage in group dialogue

Whether you're an experienced artist looking to refresh your process, or new to mixed media and ready to dive in, this workshop offers a generous, supportive environment for exploration and discovery.

All levels welcome. Curiosity required.

To Bring

For Printing & Monotype Making

- Gelli plate or similar printing surface (8"x10" or larger recommended)
- Acrylic paint (your preferred colors; fluid, high flow, or heavy body) I like golden and look for transparent colors and opaque
- Brayer(s)
- Palette paper or flat surface for mixing (freezer paper works great)
- Texturing tools: string, mesh, bubble wrap, old gift cards, stencils
- Spray bottle for water

Paper

- At least 100 sheets of paper (6"x6", 9"x12", or a mix)
Recommended: hot press watercolor, mixed media, or printmaking paper, tea bag paper, wet strength tissue paper
- Additional collage papers: old drawings, book pages, natural or handmade papers

Adhesives & Collage Tools

- Matte medium
- Glue stick (acid-free)
- Small brushes for applying adhesive
- Scissors, X-Acto knife, cutting mat
- Bone folder or small brayer for smoothing collage

Mark-Making & Embellishment

- Graphite pencils or sticks
- Soft pastels or oil pastels (optional)
- India ink + brushes or pens

General Studio Supplies

- Apron or painting clothes
- Masking tape or low-tack tape
- Sketchbook for notes or thumbnails
- Paper towels and soft rags
- Water container

Materials Fee: \$25

This fee covers access to a selection of high-quality specialty materials provided by the instructor, including:

- R&F Pigment Sticks® (shared use)
- Specialty collage and handmade papers
- Drawing media (ArtGraf, PanPastel, Posca pens, water-soluble crayons, etc.)
- Stencils and texture tools
- Additional adhesives and mediums
- Additional acrylic paints and inks for group use