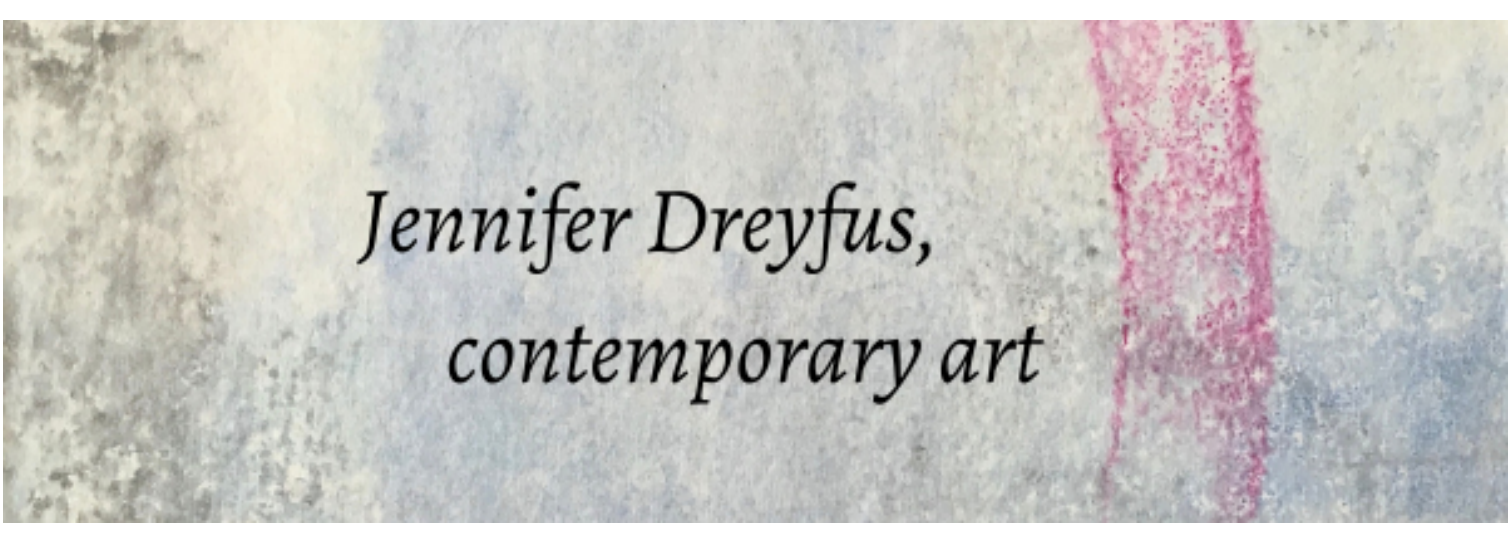


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August 2021

I am pleased that you've joined me for another edition of the newsletter. I would enjoy hearing about what you like and don't like about it. Please share with friends and family as I grow my network. Should you have ideas for future newsletter subjects, please let me know. Of course, you can follow me on social media through the links at the bottom of the newsletter.

Jennifer

What am I working on?

I recently have been combining painting with printmaking. First, I create a painting on thin rice paper, Then handmade print plates press these paintings onto larger pieces of paper while adding color and texture from the inks. The result is a monotype (unique print that cannot be reprinted) with chine colle.

Here is a picture of me with my four prints now displayed at [The Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago](#) in a show entitled *Working in the Studio: a collective voice*.

This [video](#), filmed by Jeff Hirst, is a walk-through of the entire show with my pieces being at minute 8:00. The video shows many lovely pieces by fellow artists. Below is a close up of one of my prints so more detail can be seen. The show runs until August 20<sup>th</sup>.

This new effort has been a fun avenue to explore as it brings together my drawing and painting skills with my rusty printmaking interests. We will see where it takes me.



My pieces (analog)  
*Working in the Studio: a collective voice*  
Bridgeport Art Center



breath 2

I found a piece of art that I love. Now what?  
or  
Framing art – the basics...

There are many options for displaying two-dimensional artwork. In future newsletters, I will talk about some of the less traditional options, but first let's cover traditional framing using a mat and a frame. A good frame shop can walk through many of the options and show how the components would work together to complement the piece. For those living in the Washington metro area, Plaza Art offers excellent framing services and sometimes has discounts. There are many other independent shops that can help as well. On the much less expensive side, there are easy options available that provide a frame and a mat (Amazon, Michaels, Target....). The challenge here is that the choices are limited to standard sizes and typical frames.

For those willing to put in a bit of time and learn as you go, there are less expensive alternatives than a professional framer that can provide a custom look. I highly recommend [Franken Frames](#) - they have excellent customer service and will work with you to customize frames and mats. It generally costs significantly less than a professional framer (think at least a savings of 50%). You then easily put your art piece in the mat and frame.

To get started, here's some basic information about frames, mats and glass.

Frames

Today's aesthetic generally requires that the frame be fairly simple to compliment, not detract, from the piece. Often frames come with a backing board that holds the piece snugly in the frame. Most can be used without a mat. Each frame specifies the size of the piece it will accommodate with the mat; without a mat; and the overall dimension of the frame. Look for the following:

- overall size of the frame (how large will it be on the wall);
- what size picture will fit without a mat; and
- what size picture will fit with a mat.

For example, a picture frame described as 11"x14" will be larger overall than that so the frame can accommodate the piece. The frame is made to accommodate an 11"x14" picture without a mat but will display slightly less than those dimensions (usually around 10.5"x13.5") because the frame will cover a bit of the picture. With a mat, it fits a much smaller picture, for example a 8"x10" piece, and again a small amount of the picture will be covered by the mat – perhaps 7.5"x9.5" will show. [Floater frames](#) appear to have the art piece "floating" in the frame with blank space between the piece and the frame. No mat or glass is used. The art size must be exact as there is no mat covering part of the piece. Floaters can be customized or a standard size can be used. Floater frames are often seen as a more modern alternative and are best used for oil paintings or other surfaces that do not require the protection of glass. [Franken Frames](#) makes excellent custom floater frames. [Frameless frames](#) do not have a visible boarder and are another sleek alternative. These are often limited to standard sizes.

Mats

Arguably more important than a frame, a mat can bring a piece of art to life. Varying the width of a mat can create different effects. There are many online articles about how to select the right mat. Here's [one](#) to get started. Generally white or off white mats work well as bright colored mats detract from a piece. A good quality white mat made with acid-free/archival materials and a nice black frame are generally all that is needed.

One of the most interesting ways of using a mat is to select a mat with a ["recess"](#) - meaning a thin hint of color around the inside of the mat – often called a double mat. For example, if there is a small amount of green in a picture and you would like to accent that green, select a white mat with a 1/4 inch recess in a similar green. Surrounding a picture with a thin piece of green will make the green in the artwork more apparent. Alternatively, a complementary color could be used for the recess in order to make a specific color in the artwork more vibrant. Check out [my April 2021 newsletter](#) on complementary colors and how to use them.

When ordering a custom frame online, a mockup can be created by taking white paper in 1, 2 or 3 inch widths to see what mat width works best. Slip a piece of colored construction paper, ribbon or other material underneath and show just 1/4 inch to approximate the recess. Remember when ordering the frame, include the mat on both sides and on top and bottom. For example, an 8"x10" piece placed in a 2-inch wide mat will need a 12"x14" frame. While several online stores sell double mats, a professional framer, [FrankenFrames](#) or other specialty company may be the best resource for the right double mat.

Glass

Increasingly, mass-produced standard frames come with styrene or plexiglass to cover the artwork. This material is shatterproof and ships easily; however it is not as clear as glass. It creates a less than ideal covering for artwork. The styrene or plexiglass in a standard frame can be replaced with anti-reflective glass. Most framing shops will cut anti-reflective glass to standard or custom specifications at a reasonable cost. No need to have purchased a frame from the shop. Alternatively, places like Plaza Arts and others sell pre-cut, inexpensive anti-reflective glass in standard sizes.

[check out my website](#)

Upcoming exhibits

After a year away from applying to juried shows, I stuck a few toes back in this water. I am pleased to say that the piece below was selected for *Textures, Patterns, Shapes or Forms, 2021* at the [Las Laguna Art Gallery](#), Laguna Beach CA, running August 5th - 28<sup>th</sup>.



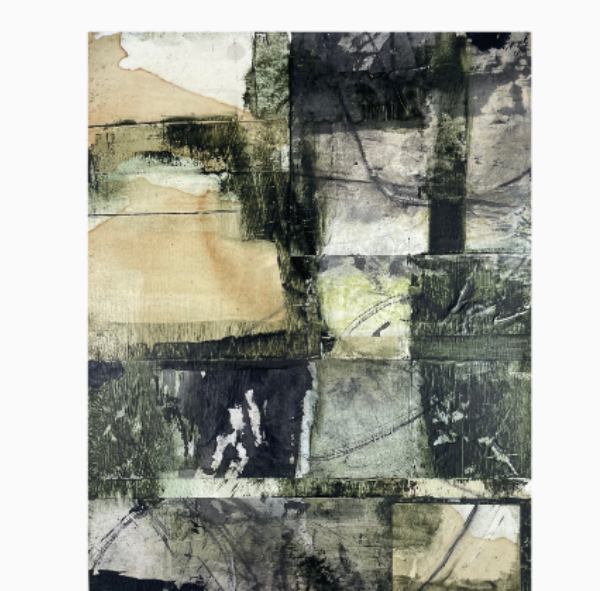
jigsaw 2

*selected Textures, Patterns Shapes or Forms, 2021, Las  
Laguna Art Gallery, CA*

Two other pieces were selected for the August show at Jones Gallery, Missouri.



raindrops



seeds of virtue

Lastly, I have a painting selected for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wills Creek Exhibition of Fine Art. This exhibit is sponsored by the Allegany Arts Council and will be at the Saville Gallery from September 4 to October 2.



2020, it was a year

[check out my website](#)

Moment of Zen

"Abstraction allows man to see with his mind what he cannot see physically with his eyes." Arshile Gorky