

September 2019: More Fun With Free Flow

One of the great things about [Atelier Free Flow](#) is that it's just a fun paint to use. As I mentioned in the article found in the September 2019 edition of Australian Artist, I was tired of creating "heavy" paintings and I wanted to experiment and enjoy the painting process. Because Free Flow is a fluid acrylic, it was perfect for these experimental pieces. I could work quickly and loosely as well as explore techniques such as printing into my work. Free Flow is a professional, lightfast acrylic paint, so even though I was "playing with paint," I was still using archival materials in case any of these pieces evolved into something interesting

The first thing I did was change up my surface. I usually begin my paintings on canvas that I've primed with gesso (the coloured [Atelier Free Flow Gessos](#) have been my go-to gesso for some time) but I decided to work on a heavyweight watercolor paper. I also chose to use a [Gelli Plate](#), which is a durable, reusable gel printing plate, most often used for monoprints. Free Flow has a nice consistency for printmaking (you don't need much paint), and I applied some colour with a brayer and added a handmade stencil onto the Gelli Plate.



Atelier Free Flow Quinacridone Magenta, Titanium White, Arylamide Yellow Light and handmade stencils on a Gelli Plate

Tip: If you feel you have too much paint on the plate, pull some off using scrap paper or paper from the recycling bin. I was ready to pull my 1st print.

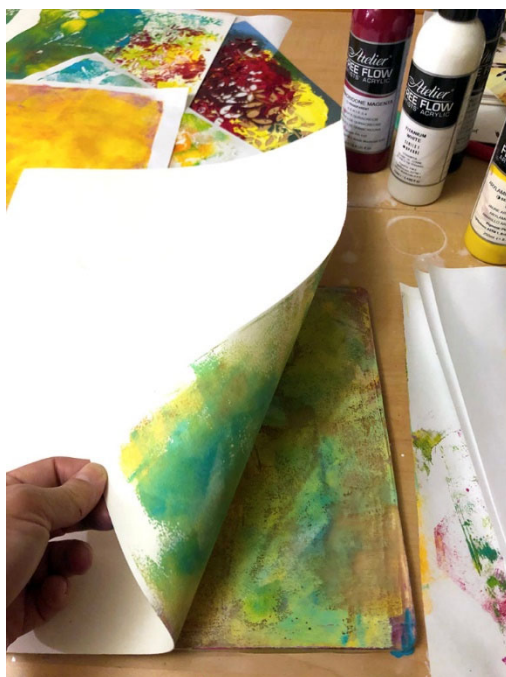


Pulling the print



1st Print

I liked how that looked, so I quickly created variations on the theme, choosing colours that would complement one another when printed one after the other. I didn't have to clean my plate between prints - I just used that same piece of scrap paper to pull any remaining paint on the plate.



Pulling another layer



And another layer with a paper towel texture...

I created textures on the plate by removing some paint with rags, netting, foam stamps, a spool of thread and bubble wrap. I even used a paper towel for the pattern and to make a soft edge stencil. I pulled excess paint and made ghost prints after each pull, creating a secondary pattern.



Excess Paint/Ghost Prints - you can really see the paper towel texture on this

I continued to move my surface and print around the entire page until it was covered with an allover design I liked.



Final print

One of the great things about this process was that I remained unattached to the outcome (for the most part). Of course, I wanted to create something good, but during this studio time I wanted to approach my work in a different way than I normally do. As Oscar Wilde said, "Art is the only serious thing in the world. And the artist is the only person who is never serious."

Please send me an [email](#) or let us know on [Facebook](#) if you decide to try something that is "not serious!"

Learn more at www.atelieracrylic.com.