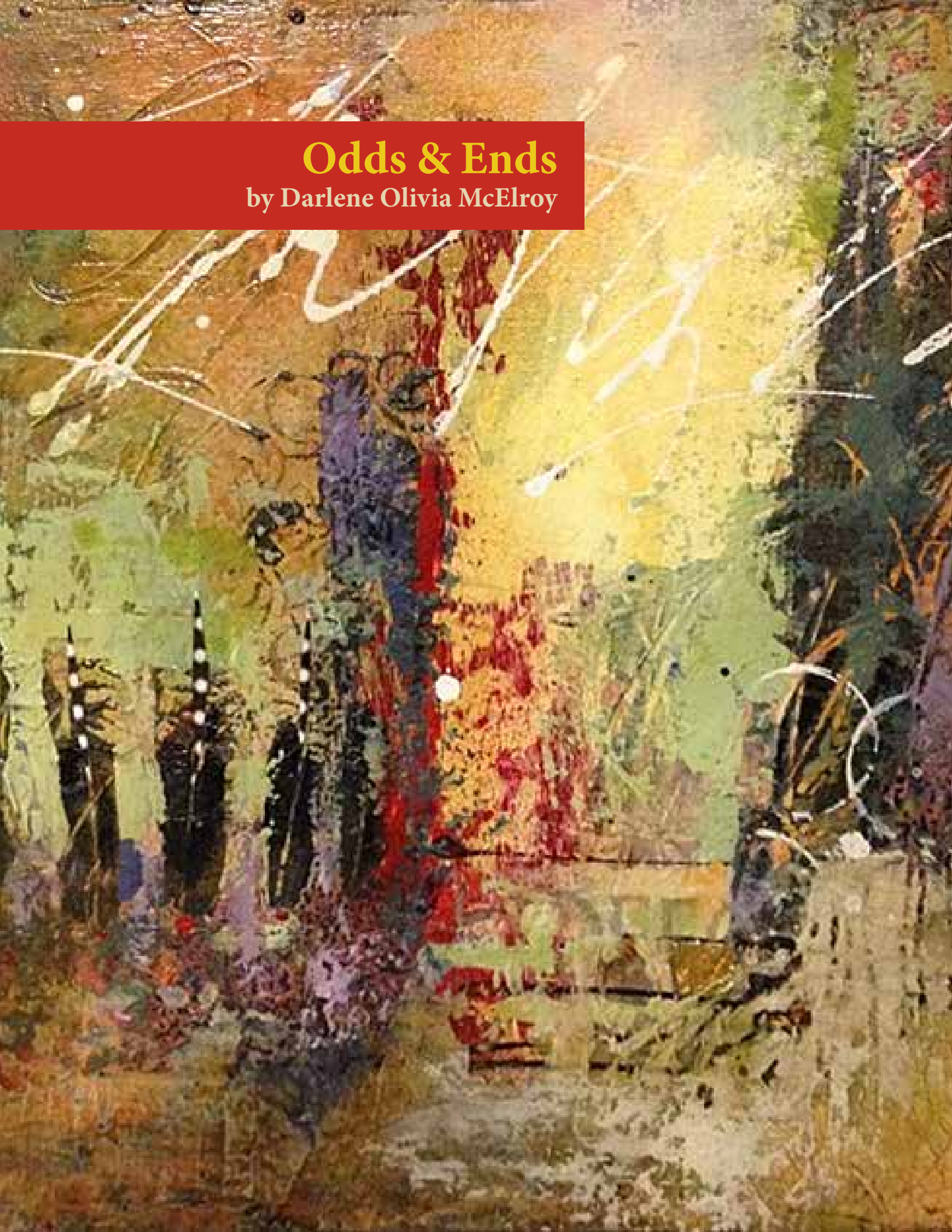


Odds & Ends

by Darlene Olivia McElroy



These small colorful abstracts and abstracted landscapes are composed with the rhythm of music, paint skins, collage elements, textures, and patterns.



“For me, creating an art piece is like reading Turkish coffee grounds — a story becomes revealed as one looks at the surface, texture and color. Moving around the canvas, one can see the past, present and future of the creation.”

Throughout her career Darlene Olivia McElroy has combined head and heart in her journey of creating evocative mixed-media paintings. Trained as a painter and illustrator, she has an obsession for materials, a passion for dreamlike imagery, and love of new technologies, which she uses to immerse herself in richly-textured surfaces, mixtures of old and new, and brilliant and subdued tones. And always, there is a face or symbol of humanity that serves as a guide into mysterious layers which challenge reason and draw upon emotions.

In addition to being an artist and educator, she has written five art technique books which are testaments to her inherent need to experiment with all types of media. Several of her books have been translated into in German, Chinese and Korean.

She works in a great-room-turned-studio with large windows that let in New Mexico's ubiquitous sunshine, while looking out to a rustic yard, complete with ponds, waterfalls, wisteria-covered arbors and a herd of dogs. Her "casa de chaos" overflows with furniture parts, antique frames, ephemera, and cabinets filled with what she identifies as "S.H.I.T. (second-hand interesting things) that goes into her art.

DarleneOliviaMcElroy.com

[instagram.com/darlene_olivia_mcelroy](https://www.instagram.com/darlene_olivia_mcelroy)

[facebook.com/darleneoliviamcelroy](https://www.facebook.com/darleneoliviamcelroy)

Representation:

La Posada de Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM

Rio Bravo Fine Art Gallery, Truth or Consequences, NM

Calliope Gallery, Madrid, NM

Pez Gordo Gallery, Los Cabos, MX

Ugallery.com



*Acrylics, collage,
gels, stencils*

Pause, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Memories of Tuscany in the early morning mist makes me pause.



*Acrylics, collage,
stencils*

Garden Glow, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

The gateway to the garden glowed with the changing colors of autumn.



*Acrylics, collage,
stencils, paint skins.*

Cloudburst at Dusk, 8" x 8", mixed media on panel

Summer gloaming in the Southwest is alive with color and the energy of the monsoon season.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins.*

Dark Seas, Orange Sky, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Sailing on the winter ocean can be violent or calm and the colors moody.



Acrylics, collage

Pink Glow Over Quiet Sea, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Oh, those tropical seas at dusk are tattooed in my memories. Ah, Tahiti, Moorea, Bali, New Caledonia, Fiji...



Acrylics, collage

Calm, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

In this crazy, chaotic world we all need to just look at the horizon and breathe it in.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional
objects, diecut paper,
ephemera, paint
skins*

Well Traveled, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

When traveling the world, colors and textures from exotic and magical places stick to your soul.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Summer Monsoon, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

When the wet rains from the monsoons hit the desert landscape, earth releases a wonderful scent and you can almost hear her saying, "Ahhhhh."

Technique: Stencil Tricks

Of course you can buy stencils at art or craft stores but it is so much fun making your own unique ones or finding objects around the house to use as stencils. Use stencils as texture plates or cut your own with stencil film for your unique personal designs. Go crazy layering them, deconstructing them, giving them texture and just having fun.

Paint Skins

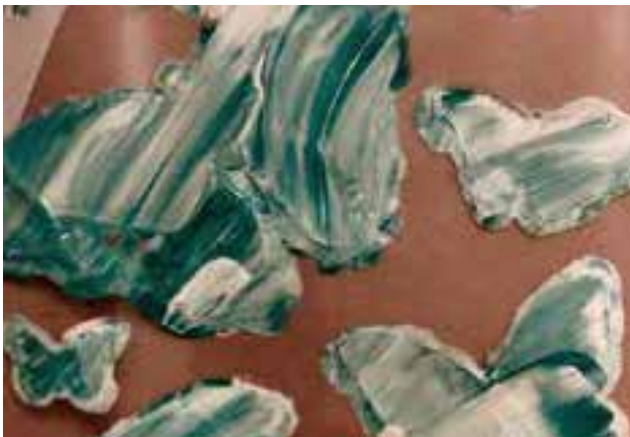
I wanted butterflies that had a roughly painted look. Using my palette knife, I applied the Titan Buff and teal acrylic paint haphazardly together onto my polypropylene surface. The paint was allowed to dry overnight then was removed from the surface. This allows me to separate the elements that were stenciled in order to place them individually. The beauty of this technique is that you can use either side of the skin in your art. Apply shapes to art surface with soft gel.



Piece using deconstructed stencils



Add paint colors but don't mix.



11 Peel the dried stencil off plastic.



Glue down with soft gel.

Paint Skins with Light Molding Paste

Apply light molding paste through a stencil on to a silicone texture plate. Remove stencil, let dry thoroughly, then peel the individual pieces off. Use the reverse side of the skin with has the pattern. Glue down with soft gel. Note: If you are unsure of your casting surface, first spray PAM on it as a mold release.



Light molding paste applied to silicone texture plate.



Individual pieces peeled off & placed on surface.



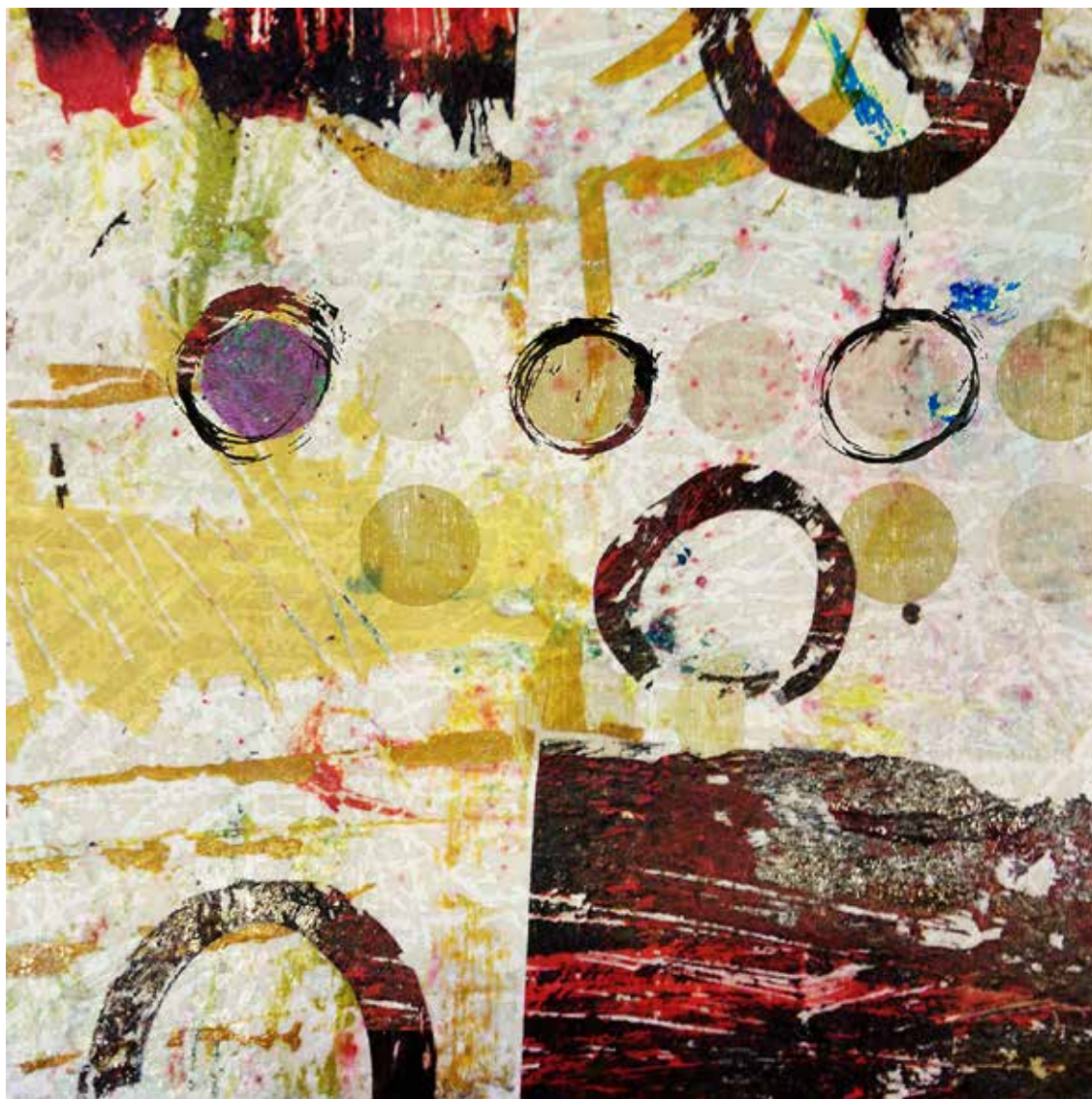
Glue down with soft gel.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils*

Distant Cloudburst, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Cloudburst, deluge, downfall, downpour, monsoon, rainfall, rainstorm, storm, Wet is wet.



*Acrylics, collage,
paint skins.*

Circles & Dots 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

It was either hailing or raining dots. I prefer to think it was the latter.



Acrylics, metal leaf

Scribbles, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

The golden warmth of the sun while laying on the beach goes so well with a nice, cold Margarita.



*Acrylics, collage,
transfer*

Summer Rain, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Each rain storm has a different feel. Against a bright blue sky it lifts you up while against a grey veil it makes you feel cold even on a warm day.



Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera

Travel Stories, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

The music of languages, local food, textiles, music, and the objects discovered all make the experience of travel magical.



*Acrylics, collage,
cast objects, stencils,
ephemera, paint
skins*

Tiny Winds 12" x 12", mixed

Little whispers float on tiny breaths of air
while looking for a place to land.

Technique: Foil Fun

Holographic adhesive film by Graftix comes in a variety of colors with patterns in it. When you peel the backing paper off you have an adhesive film to apply to your art. You can hand cut designs or use it with die cut machines like the Silhouette Cameo, Cricut or a Sizzix. After you have your design cut, peel off the backing and apply to your art with the adhesive side down. Either leave as is or paint over it leaving just a little of the sparkle to shine through.



Samples of Graftix holographic adhesive film.



Holographic accents added to the fish.



Diecut pieces of the film using a Sizzix.



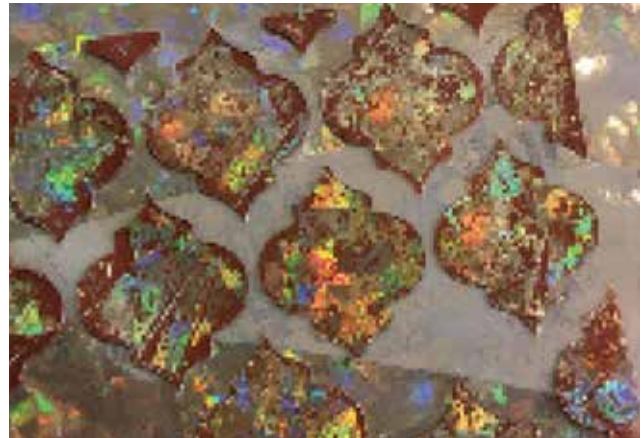
Holographic accents peek through the paint.

Deconstruct, Reactivate, Bling It

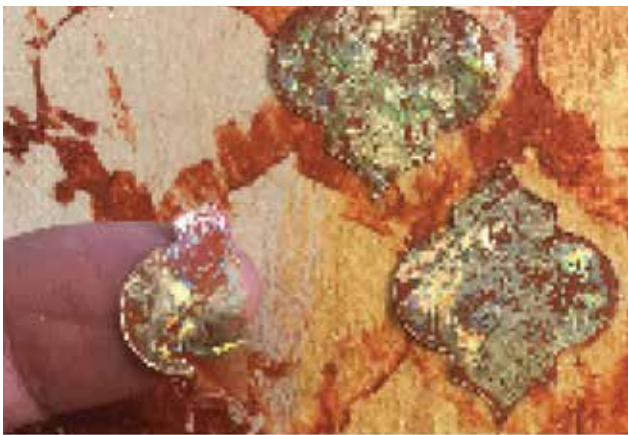
Deconstructed stencils created with acrylic paint can be reactivated with alcohol. Stencils a paint and gel mixture on to a sheet of polypropylene plastic. When the paint is thoroughly dry, spray the stenciled area with rubbing alcohol. This will reactivate the acrylic paint and make it tacky. While tacky, apply the holographic folio to the stenciled shapes. Remove the shapes from the plastic and glue down with soft gel.



Stenciled paint on a polypropylene sheet.



Sprayed with alcohol & foil applied when paint is tacky.



Pieces removed from the polypropylene sheet.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional cast
objects, joss paper,
deconstructed
stencils*

White Dreams 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Reaching for the moon and the stars in my dreams, I am surrounded by a rich, layered tapestry.



*Acrylics, collage,
ephemera, paint
skins*

Simple Life, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

A life off the grid is a simple life. No noise except for nature, no interruptions from phones, emails, etc. and no pressure to be on the run. Difficult to do if you are a complex person.



Books, Tutorials & Videos

Darlene Olivia McElroy's five books are available at Amazon.com. and on iTunes. Her free Goddess series and her latest five ibooks can be found there also.

Technique specific tutorials can be found at Darlene's Etsy shop - [MixedMediaWorkshop](#).

Mixed media video tutorials by Darlene are available on [YouTube](#).

To see more of her art and sign up for her monthly e-newsletter, visit her website at [DarleneOliviaMcElroy.com](#).