

**Demonstration**  
**September 12, 2022 Meeting**  
**Suzette Cohen, "Gelli Printing"**

We thank member artist **Suzette Cohen** for her interesting and unique demonstration on **Gelli Printing** at our September meeting. Gelli printing, also known as mono-printing, is a thousand-year-old technique akin to the first printing press. She learned gelli printing by watching YouTube videos and experimenting with different techniques. Her equipment includes an 8 x 10-inch gelli plate, best purchased at Amazon, Michelle's or any craft store. You can make your own using Knox gelatin and glycerin, but it's easier to just order the plate online. If properly cared for, it will last for years. You will also need good quality acrylic paints, a 4 or 5-inch brayer, an old credit card, lots of stencils and other 'weird stuff' like bubble wrap, bottle caps, dried botanicals, leaves, even crabgrass....but nothing with pricklers! And let's not forget copy paper! Lots of it! "Staples delivers," she quipped. Rice paper and fabric work well, too.



Suzette went on to explain the technique by showing us how it's done. There are so many ways to experiment or just play around to create different papers. She showed us only a few. Definitely wear gloves. In making an impression on the gelli plate, make sure you have good contact with the plate. Rub to get good texture, especially for leaves. Different acrylic paints, i.e., transparent versus opaque, give totally different results. It doesn't take too long for the impressions to dry. Suzette said, "there's an 80-20 rule that you won't like!" She said that 80% of the impressions turn out not to be what you had in mind. To clean the gelli plate, she uses water or hand sanitizer, and packaging tape even works. She suggests that you keep your plate in the clamshell container that it originally came in, but thoroughly clean the plate first with baby oil....and it will keep for years. At home Suzette has thousands of sheets of printed papers, because "I'm addicted!" She uses these papers in her amazing collages or as art itself.



Thanks to our hosts for the evening, Sandi Richards, Ellen Howard and Joan Milligan. We enjoyed a refreshment table of delicious treats after the demo, which included fruits, veggie tray, meltaways, peanut butter cookies, gluten free lemon squares and brownies. Everyone requested the recipes for Joan's GF offerings...which will be included in a future *EAA Art as Food* recipe booklet.

