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# Painted Pages: Fueling Creativity With Sketchbooks And Mixed Media



## **Synopsis**

More inspirational guide than step-by-step workbook, Painted Pages is about helping you to find your own unique way, in the everyday, to be creative and make art. With specific how-to techniques and creative prompts on using an artist's sketchbook in a new way, these pages provide a gentle push to help you discover and integrate your creative passions through sketchbooks, workspaces, and mixed media. Through beautiful full-color imagery, you'll learn in each chapter how your collections, scraps, ideas, and doodles can lead directly to, and fuel ideas for, creating individual works of art. Using her own materials and methods as a source of motivation, Sarah Ahearn Bellemare provides an inside look at her personal creative processes, sharing her use of her favorite resources alongside tips and tricks for making art â€“ all the while encouraging you to explore, play, and make mistakes as part of the journey. At the end of each chapter, Sarah takes you to visit the studios and sketchbooks of some of her fellow artists â€“ including Shanna Murray, Christine Chitnis, Stephanie Levy, and others â€“ for behind-the-scenes glances into their creative work. Become inspired to build upon your own artistic style and discover the beauty in everyday life with Painted Pages! Â Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Sarah Ahearn BellemareÂ is an artist from New England who first began painting as a way to illustrate poetry. Her mixed media paintings are layered with found images, fragments of text from old books, and pieces of vintage maps. These ephemera become the fabric and focus of many of her whimsical paintings. Sarah has taught art to many students in a variety of settings ranging from

art camps to museums, teaching students age 3 to 63. Most recently, Sarah was invited to teach her mixed media techniques at Squam Art Workshops, and is thrilled to be returning for two more sessions in fall of 2010. Sarah and her work have been featured in Cloth Paper Scissors magazine (Nov/Dec 2008), Artful Blogging (winter 09/10), Cloth Paper Scissors: Studios (fall 2008), and Memory Makers magazine (spring 2009), as well as on a number of prominent art and design blogs. She regularly exhibits her paintings throughout Northeast in galleries and art fairs, as well as online in her Etsy shop. Sarah can be found making messes in her studio on a daily basis. See what she's up to in art and life by following her blog: <http://www.sarahearn.blogspot.com>. Â

Sarah Ahearn Bellemare has created a delightfully inspiring book that is both eye-candy and a hard-core, hands-on art process reference book. It takes the reader on a journey into the daily life of an artist who is creating from her heart. The inspiration doesn't stop with just Sarah but she has included numerous guest artists who are equally fascinating in their approach to creating. This book reminds me a bit of like "Lifestyles of The Wildly Creative" (I don't think that has been created yet, but perhaps it would make a great lifestyle show for OWN?) Taking this book over the top for me was that the fabulous photographer, Thea Coughlin had so eloquently captured little natural vignettes & Sarah working in her studio. Like I said, it is eye-candy for the soul. I loved this book so much I bought extra copies for my friends and we are using the prompts in the back of the book and techniques throughout in our regular weekly gatherings which we call Dirty Laundry ~ where we hang it all out there on the canvas and in story in a safe, accepting environment to be washed clean of shame, with wine of course! Love this book, look forward to learn more about Sara Ahearn Bellemare and what she creates next.

i have always admired sarah ahearn bellemare's work ever since i stumbled upon her etsy shop a few years ago. when i saw that her book was available for pre-order, i ordered it right away! when it arrived, i combed through the book, page by page, just soaking up the beautiful, well-photographed images and read every word. that is rare for me to read an entire craft book--usually i just skim through for the images and inspiration and how-to's, but i really found myself appreciating the simple, eloquent and every day language that sarah uses to explain her life as an artist, her artwork, how to find your own style, and how to try new techniques. i especially LOVED the exercises in the book that helped me loosen up and open up to a more childlike, playful style. if you are drawn to her images and you feel that artistic pull inside of you, then this is the book for you. you will not find step-by-step recreations of her paintings, which is another thing i love about this book. there is so

much beautiful imagery to inspire you and enough tips and techniques to get you started. she does show you how to put all the steps together in the end, though, which i find helpful, especially in mixed media since there are often so many different layers, it's hard to understand how an artist achieved a particular effect without seeing some step-by-step photos. i also loved the guest-artists that were featured throughout the book. it's nice to see how so many different styles can emerge from the same techniques or ideas. i think it encourages us beginners to find our own voice and style. overall, this is one of the best mixed media books i've read in a long time and it is one that i still often refer to many months later.

I've had Sarah Ahearn's book Painted Pages on my wish list since it was released in 2010. I read some of the reviews for her book, including the less favorable ones before placing my order, so was curious how I would feel about the book once it arrived. Despite my hectic schedule, I made time to sit and savor every page of her book, just 3 days after receiving it. I had no need to be weary about my purchase. This book was exactly what I wanted it to be. I LOVED her emphasis on using a sketchbook for inspiration and how she showed a direct correlation between her sketchbook and finished art. I find inspiration in many of the same items (dictionaries, antique photos, rub on letters, any discarded old piece of paper, etc) as the author, so this was a book I could completely relate to. I particularly enjoyed that this was not another book where the author gave specific instructions on how to recreate a particular piece of art. I was looking for a book on general technique and I found Ahearn's tips were something I could incorporate into my own artistic process. In addition to the worthwhile content, the design of the book was an added touch. The photographs, particularly Ahearn's studio, were a great complement to the book. The design of the book mimicked the style of the sketchbook and made me almost feel I was in Ahearn's studio sifting through her collection of papers and found objects. I would recommend this book for any true artist looking for that added motivation to keep a sketchbook and anyone who enjoys the lost treasures of another era.

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