

Hot Wax News

Barbara Michener's Encaustic Newsletter
February—March 2011



Fire in the Sky Encaustic on raku clay base by Jane Belew, Tubac Art Center

I'm excited to share this first newsletter with you. You will learn how your painting was created, where my work is exhibited, and tips on caring for your en-



Cymbidium Statement
11" w x 26" h

Leaves and flowers made from paper, coated with wax on paper on panel substrate, three dimensional.

Substrates: A substrate is the rigid and absorbent support of an encaustic painting. Wax will adhere to many natural substances, but porous surfaces work better than slick and shiny. I prefer to use birch plywood boxes and panels. Wood bowls take the wax if the lacquer finish and oil are sanded off first. I have used plaster, sheet rock panels, concrete, paper and clay as substrates. Encaustic does not adhere well to metals, acrylic paint or flexible, unsupported canvas.



Fish Eye Agate Encaustic and agate on wood, Artizen Gallery



Mend- Wood Bowl Substrate

*Those who know others are wise,
those who know themselves are en-
lightened.*

The Tao Te Ching



Topography 1 Encaustic on wood box

It takes many people to shape a creative enterprise. That is definitely true for my artist life. I am so grateful to my mate, Roger, for his support of my studio time and for how he sees potential for creativity in the world as we walk our journey together. Often he will see texture or design in nature and say “You could do that in wax.” And often I do.

I want to thank the buyers of my work who connect with it and take it home. I would remind you that you can polish the painting with a soft rag, like a t-shirt, or leave it a matte finish. Finger prints can be polished out. Don't put it directly in front of a West facing window, as it may overheat. With direct lighting encaustic reveals the many layers of color that go into most paintings.

I am grateful also for the special artist friends who have honestly critiqued my work, teaching me the finer points of what works and what doesn't. I even appreciate it when they turn my work upside down to show me another perspective!

You can view more art at

Please email me to unsubscribe: bmichener@clearwire.net

EXHIBIT: On February 3rd, 2011, I was a featured artist at Brown's Gallery Boise, Idaho. Fourteen pieces of work will exhibit during the month of February. The theme for the show is Valentines Day Gem stones. Some pieces with agate slices are lit from behind. Others show the glow of different colors by being placed on an easel in front of a light source.

www.brownsgallery.com

EXHIBIT: “Hearts Aflame” On February 12th, 2011 at the Encaustic Art Institute in Cerrillos, New Mexico I will have artwork including “Memories”. A chain and picture locket are embedded within the wax, designed as a Valentine gift.

www.easinm.com

EXHIBIT: “Playing with Fire” On March 18th, 2011 a triptych, three-piece painting, will display at the Tubac Center for the Arts in Tubac, Arizona. Jane Belew and I collaborated on the painting. She produced beautiful raku fired bases with glazes. She left a portion of the slab unglazed for me to apply encaustic. The show runs through May 2nd, 2011.

GALLERY: You can also see my art at the Artizen Gallery, McCall, Idaho.

Freestone Studio back yard in January

