

Hot Wax News

Barbara Michener's Encaustic Newsletter
February—March 2012



"Balanced"

SCULPTURAL ABILITIES: I start to build dimensional pieces by laying on a brush full of wax creating ridges and bumps. When bonding with the heat gun I give it just enough heat to make the wax shiny, but not melt down, keeping the ridges in tact. When it is cooled completely a second color is applied stroking back and forth and changing directions. After 10-12 applications of wax, or when I reach the desired look or height, I finish with the top coat of color. See Martin Kline, "Hived" on page two. String, leaves, fabric, sand, paper, and dried apples can be placed within the wax to add height and texture. In the two pieces to the left, *"Balanced"* and *"Sea Scape,"* I have used shapes that suggest sculptural forms, then added shading and texture to build body and interest. In the piece below, *"Applebees 1"*, I used real apples, dried and coated in wax, along with a slice of paper wasp nest material to produce a three dimensional piece. It could be hung on the wall or displayed as a table piece. If the design is large, a structural frame may be required. I can use plaster, concrete, stone, wood or a metal frame coated with paper. Some artists build solid wax structures and others use supporting grounds. I enjoy composing both flat work and sculptural work. It affords me a variety of creativity.



"Sea Scape", encaustic on wood boxes, two sided.



"Applebees 1" " 12" x 12", on wood

The unconscious creates, the ego edits.
Stanley Kunitz

In the fall hungry bees eat the flesh of my apples leaving the core, the skin and worm holes. I've never seen this, except the past three years. It provides me with beautiful, hollow skins for 3-D sculptural art.



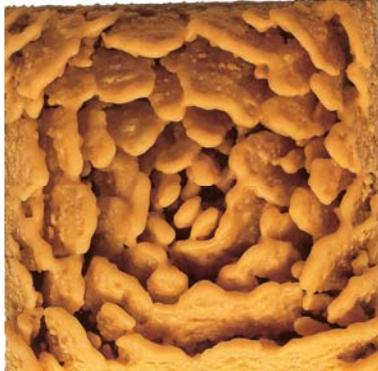


"The Idaho Calendar" at Key Bank, 36 pieces, 6" x 48"

GALLERY: Two pieces, "Manifestation" and a bowl, "Natural Beauty" were added to the Permanent Collection which will travel in an all Encaustic Exhibit to other national galleries.
www.eainm.com

EXHIBIT: At Brown's Gallery in Boise, I am showing new work including the Enlightenment Series and "Greenfields."
www.brownsgallery.com

GALLERY: You can also see new paintings and bowls at the Artizen Gallery, McCall, Idaho.
www.artizengallery.com



By Martin Kline, *"HIVED"* from The Art of Encaustic Painting, by Joanne Mattera



"Bubbling Up," texture built up, then, scored to make round.

*"Good art is a form of prayer. It's a way to say what is not sayable."
Frederick Busch*

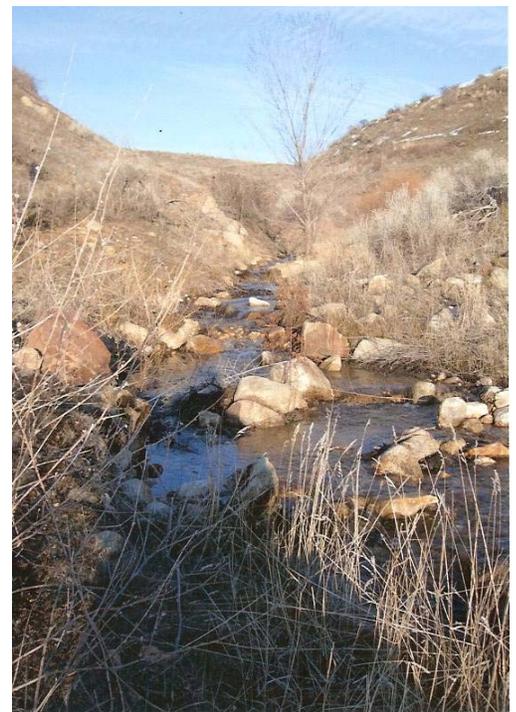
CLASSES: Eve Marie Bergren will teach basic encaustic on February 11 & 12, 2012. Class will cover grounds, substrates and heat sources. She will discuss collage, printmaking, photography and 3D casting. Cost is \$215 for two days. Register at embergren@hotmail.com.



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Curlew Creek in February