



You may remember Judi's work — she was the winner of the 2004 Holiday Card Competition (December 2004). Her process of working on Masa Paper is one you don't want to miss!



Preparing and Painting on Masa Paper

1. **Draw the image** on the Masa Paper using defined pencil marks so they show up later.
2. **Immerse the paper** in water for 2-3 minutes.
3. **Drain and scrunch up the paper** while wet (be careful, it is fragile).
4. **Very carefully open the paper** and place it image-side down on your support board (I use white Plexi-Glas). Starting from the middle, smooth the paper out using a dry, clean wide brush. Slight wrinkles won't matter.
5. **Paint the back of the paper**, knowing the paint will only show thru a little and it will gather in the creases. (Before this stage, decide on your background colors, which way the light is coming, etc. If painting white flowers, leave those areas free of paint.)
6. **Spread** a 50-50 mixture of white glue and water onto a same-size or slightly larger piece of watercolor paper.
7. **Place** the watercolor paper, glue-side down, onto the Masa Paper and press gently all over.
8. **Carefully lift** both together, turn them over onto a dry board, and remove some of the moisture with a paper towel, working from the middle, flattening and removing bubbles as you work out.
9. **Let the surface air dry** and/or place it between 2 boards with books on top to weigh it down. As the edges dry, it will be possible to use masking tape to keep the paper flat as it finishes drying, but be aware the masking tape will also remove the Masa Paper under it, so proceed with caution.
10. **Paint your subject.** I find that dark or strong colors are difficult to achieve on the paper, so err on the bright side and try adding "Neutral Tint" to your final darks.



CLEMATIS, Watercolor on Masa Paper



POPPIES ON PARADE, Watercolor on Masa Paper

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AZALEA, Watercolor on Masa Paper