

## CHILDREN OF THE WILD ECOURSE

This is a course that is dear to my heart. I have had pets all my life. I love the joy and gentleness they bring to my life. But it was only till I started rescuing dogs that gave me the deeper meaning to their importance in my life.

When I lived in Los Angeles and worked for the apparel business I met a group of women in the industry that helped rescue and care for abandoned dogs. People would take a box of puppies and just leave them downtown to fend for themselves! Those abandoned puppies grew up and started mating with other dogs and the story goes on and on! We found dogs amongst the rubble and dark under paths. It was quite a scene, all these women dressed up wearing heels out on our lunch break seeking and taking care of as many dogs as possible. There are countless homeless people downtown and we would match them up with a pet and pay for their vet bills and food. It was amazing to see these animals bring some joy to these people. We rescued bait dogs in East LA which was always heartbreaking. These dogs were used as bait for dog fighting. There are stories of success but many stories of heartbreak. I have long gone from that scene and I am sure that there are many people taking my place. It was some of the finest work I have ever done.

I really am not much of a story teller so I wasn't sure how I would structure this class. I only knew the kind of images I was drawn to and created them for this course. After I finished the painting, I was asked to submit one of the pieces to a gallery that shows my work. I was told to create a story around it which I did and it was so much fun to do! I have included it in this course and decided to create stories for all the pieces. My process here was to paint and tell the story afterwards rather than the other way around. That seems to work for me!

What else is important about creating a story is to start creating art that is personal to me. I have been painting for 6 years learning my craft and now it is time to express why I do the art I do. It was such good advice. You need the time to hone your skills for some years (they say anywhere from 5-6 years of continuous study before developing the work that is meaningful and personal to me. I used to paint things that I liked aesthetically but I can only go so far with that. To continue to be interested and engaged with the work it has to be personal.

For this class I am using many different mediums for each painting. I like to push the envelope and try and create mystery so you really don't know exactly what was used. It is fun. That is why I am a mixed media artist. I can't just use 1 medium. I also like to use pencil marks in all my pieces. I like that some areas aren't finished and covered with paint so you can see some of the other areas. It is like an old wall that has aged to the point of seeing parts that are underneath. That seems to be a thread throughout my work.

I have a video that goes over all the supplies and how I use them in each project. I suggest you do the exercises first before jumping into the paintings. We work on 4 foxes and I demonstrate the different techniques for the larger paintings. This is a good way to experiment and see what techniques and mediums you like the best without being overwhelmed in creating a piece of art because I really do work with these mediums in unconventional ways.

## VIDEO ONE INTRODUCTION

The following videos goes over some supplies and the techniques for each of the finished pieces. I have used the same image to demonstrate 4 different techniques. You will become more familiar with the supplies as well as deciding which supplies you adore. I hate to have students buy everything only to find out it isn't for them. This way you can see how I use them. I also wanted to show the techniques in a more fun and explorative way. You are not working on a finished piece of art so you will have the freedom to play . You may want to take one or two of the techniques and do a few small samples. I save these samples because often I forget techniques that I may really enjoy because I sold the artwork and the inspiration is gone. Having sample pieces as well as putting these ideas in my sketchbook is so very valuable! I often go through my sketchbook and see something I forgot that was really cool...so save these sample techniques. You may find you want to try a couple of different ones than the ones I share. Put your own spin on it.

I also have a video that goes over a few more supplies as well as mapping a photo to understand proportions. This is especially important for drawing children, which have very different proportions than adults. I go over a little bit of structure

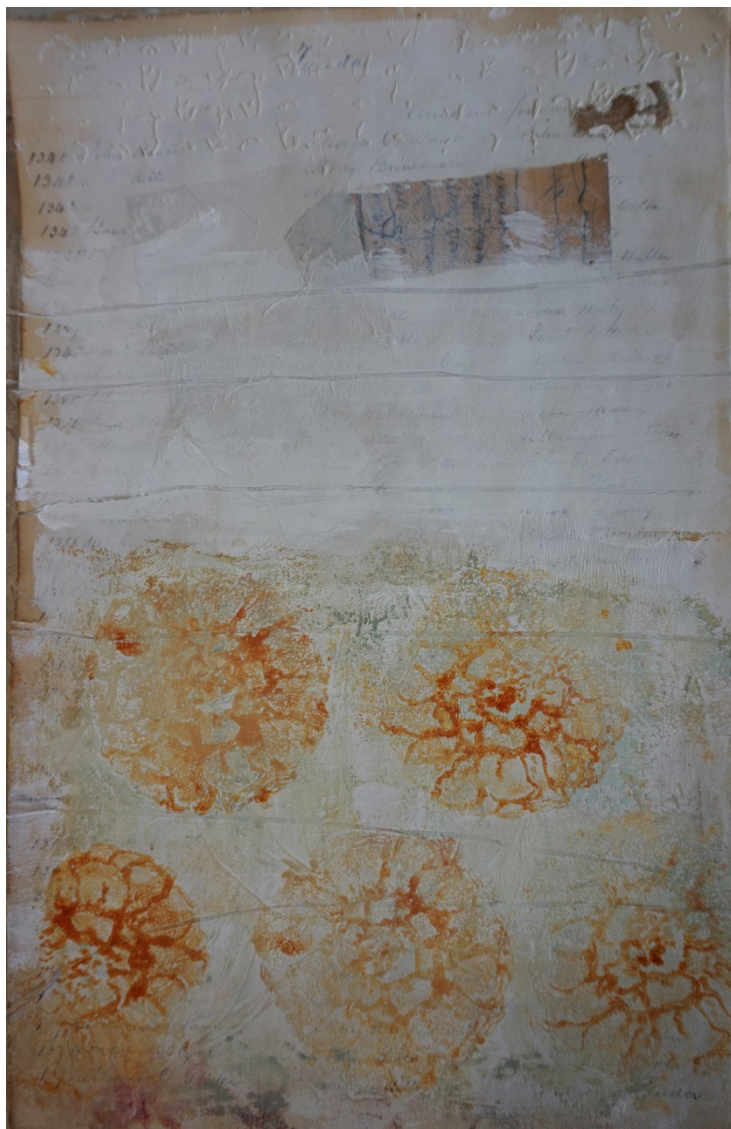
of some of the animals but it is pretty loose. I am not painting realistic animals but having a basic structure helps.

VIDEO TWO

VIDEO THREE

VIDEO FOUR

This video coming up is a lot of fun. I show you how I add stencils stamps and paint onto vintage ledger paper. These make wonderful substrates for your pieces as well as keeping the whole theme vintage.



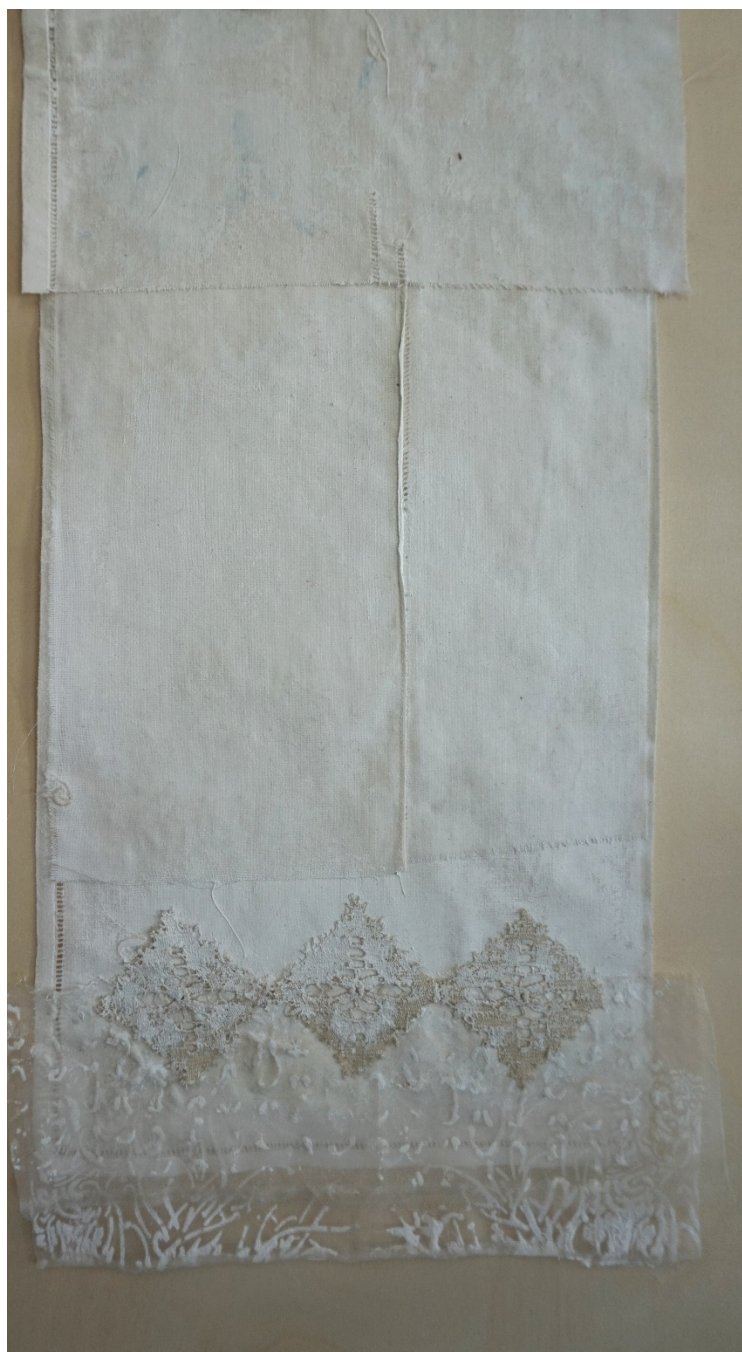


The next video is kind of my signature substrate using vintage fabrics, lace, plaster and gesso to make really cool and unusual substrates.

VIDEO FIVE

VIDEO SIX







So now we start the projects. This vintage picture of this boy stole my heart and I knew there was a story here with this photo

VIDEO SEVEN

VIDEO EIGHT









Here is my story of The boy with a deer head....



## BOY WITH A DEER HEAD

This boy had very large eyes, haunting eyes. Eyes that had seen so much at such a young age. He never had the innocence of just being a child.

Always hyper vigilante since he had to fend for himself. He had a mother that had no capacity to nurture him. Not that she didn't love him, she just didn't know how. He wanted the freedom and innocence to have some fun and joy in his life. He knew there was plenty of time to be an adult and to do adult things. He lived in a neighborhood where deer ran wild. One family actually found security in the backyard of a neighbor. He liked feeding them carrots and they slowly developed a friendship of sorts. He found the playfulness he so yearned for and as time went by his eyes has the innocence of wonder.

He was now able to see his mother in a new light; how hard she worked just to keep them afloat. His tenderness soothed her and made life much more hopeful for both of them.

The next one is the girl with the bird's nest. I love this technique. Linseed oil makes everything more wonderful and rich.

VIDEO NINE

VIDEO TEN









Here is my story of the Bird Nest Girl:

## BIRD NEST GIRL

This is a wild one....a tomboy running in the woods. She took a terrible fall which made her bed ridden for years. She was losing the spark that made her so special and irresistible. She noticed less sparkle in her eyes, the shiny hair became dull, her body lost all of its strength. To keep the madness at bay she read and she read. Books of heroines conquering their limitations. This gave her the boost she needed to get on with it. The Wild One decided to fight and fight she did. At first she crawled out of her bed and eventually limped her way towards the forest. She heard a message to climb; climb the tallest tree in the forest. She gazed up at the tree and could not even see the tree top underneath the clouds. It really didn't look that tempting to her and her disappointment almost drove her back to the bed. As she was limping away the light at the top caught her eye. Something shimmery but dark and dense. She started to climb and the further she did there was an aching to reach the top. This dense object was a bird's nest which she knew was a part of her.



## BIRD'S NEST GIRL part 2

The birds in the nest were quite unremarkable but that was only at first view. As she reached the top she placed the nest on her head. The crowning was the moment that Wild One was able to empathize with the weak and the sickly as well as tapping into her own strength that made her so extraordinary from the beginning. This was far more important than climbing the highest tree in the forest.



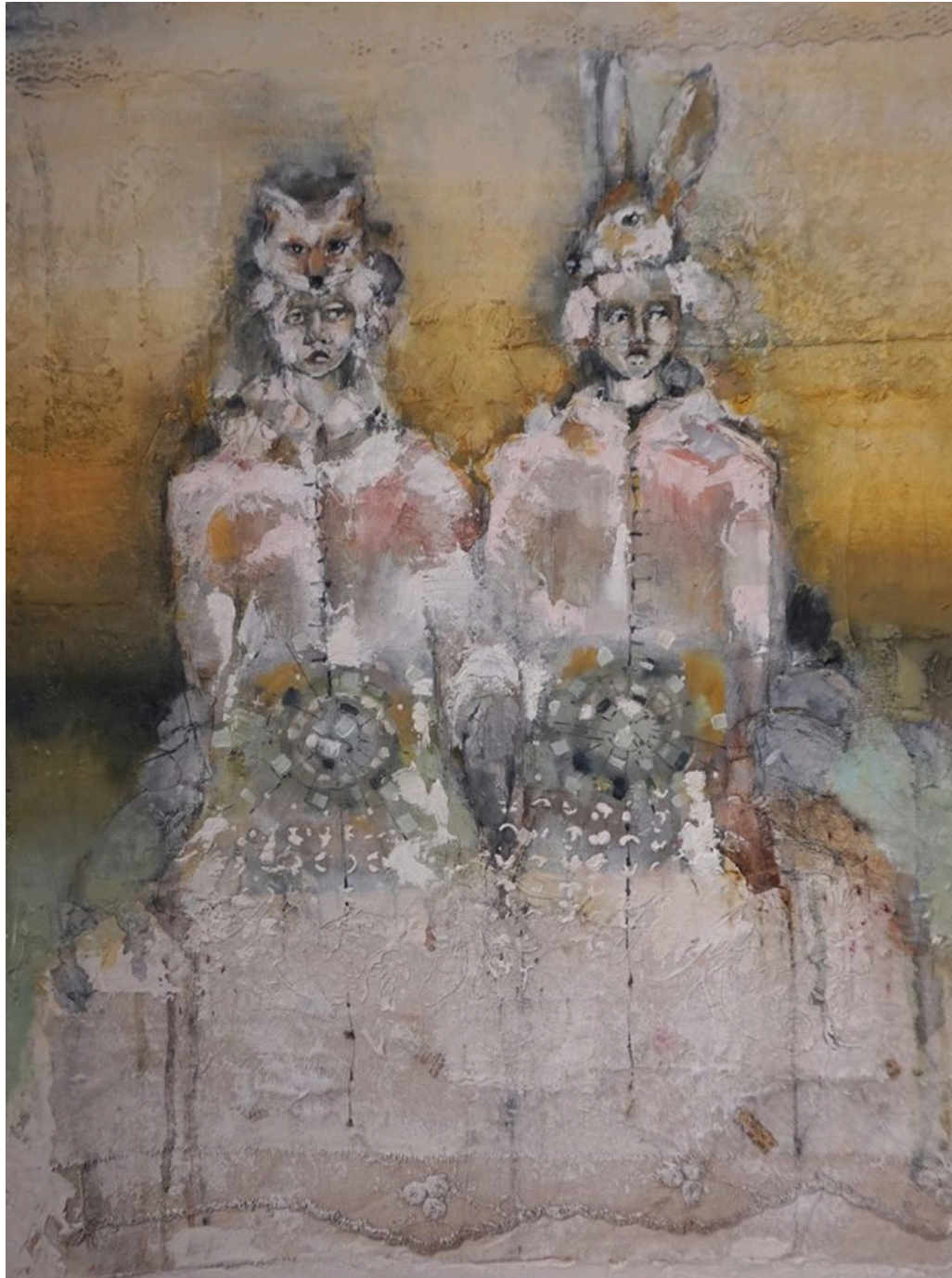
The next video I do a loose sketch of a fox and a rabbit to get me more familiar with the project which is following next. After that I work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> piece of art. I am working on one of the fabric collages I created on VIDEO SIX. After filming this piece I still wanted to go further with it so I mounted it onto a wood panel and started applying oil bars and really changed everything. I am happy to say that that piece has been sold through a gallery that sells my art! But don't worry, in the next piece I go over how I applied the oil bars so that you can fill in the gaps!

VIDEO ELEVEN

VIDEO TWELVE

VIDEO THIRTEEN















Here is my story of the Two Girls with a Rabbit and Fox Headdress:

## TWO GIRLS WITH A RABBIT AND FOX HEADDRESSES

There were two little girls living in an orphanage. They were beautiful, happy little girls before they lost their parents. Now they were a pale shadow of themselves. Since no family members wanted to take responsibility of them, they were sent to the home for unwanted children. No one took the time to visit them so they slowly and quietly disappeared.

They shed all of their beautiful dresses and hair ribbons and became more comfortable wearing grey threadbare clothing. People would walk right past them. They became part of the dust on the floors and no longer the living.

One day a bright blinding light appeared in their room. The girls became a magnet to the light and soon disappeared into it. It took some time to get their bearings and as they woke up they were in a beautiful field outside of the forest. There were strange and frightening sounds but the girls had no fear. They soon befriended a beautiful fox and a playful rabbit.



# TWO GIRLS WITH A RABBIT AND FOX HEADDRESSES

part 2

The animals became parts of the girls. The one child had always been very clever and wise which drew her to the fox. The other child was quite the free spirit and creative which drew her to the rabbit. The animals became a shroud for them and they were transformed into two beautiful princesses of the wilderness which was their real home all along.

The final painting I work on the vintage ledger paper I embellished with a really really fun technique using watercolors, linseed oil, oil bars . I found, and this is through experimenting that when I apply linseed oil over watercolors that are dry that the linseed oil doesn't smear the watercolors. Who would have thought! That is why it is always fun to experiment and I will say it again, experiment in your art journals and keep good records.

VIDEO FOURTEEN

VIDEO FIFTEEN

Here is the story of A Girl with her Llama:



## A Girl and her Llama

This little girl was so preoccupied with her looks. She could only leave the house when she felt that she looked just perfect. Beauty was her suit of armor. If she looked perfect enough people wouldn't know she worried what the other children thought of her. She lived by a farm that raised llamas. They became her true friends. They loved her and told her how beautiful she was. Now these llamas had quite the sense of humor and presented her with a hat made out of a mop. They insisted how regal she looked. She trusted them and as she sported this new hairdo she was ridiculed endlessly. She later went back to the llamas and was furious they did this to her. Their reply was it looked great to them. They liked the fact that their mop of head concealed how intelligent they were. So when the children would come up to the fence and make fun of how goofy they looked they replied "Well you look goofy to us." The children fled screaming! The little girl refused to wear the mop hat after that but she was never without her llama friend. Best of all she no longer cared what others thought of her. She was finely free to be herself, imperfections and all.







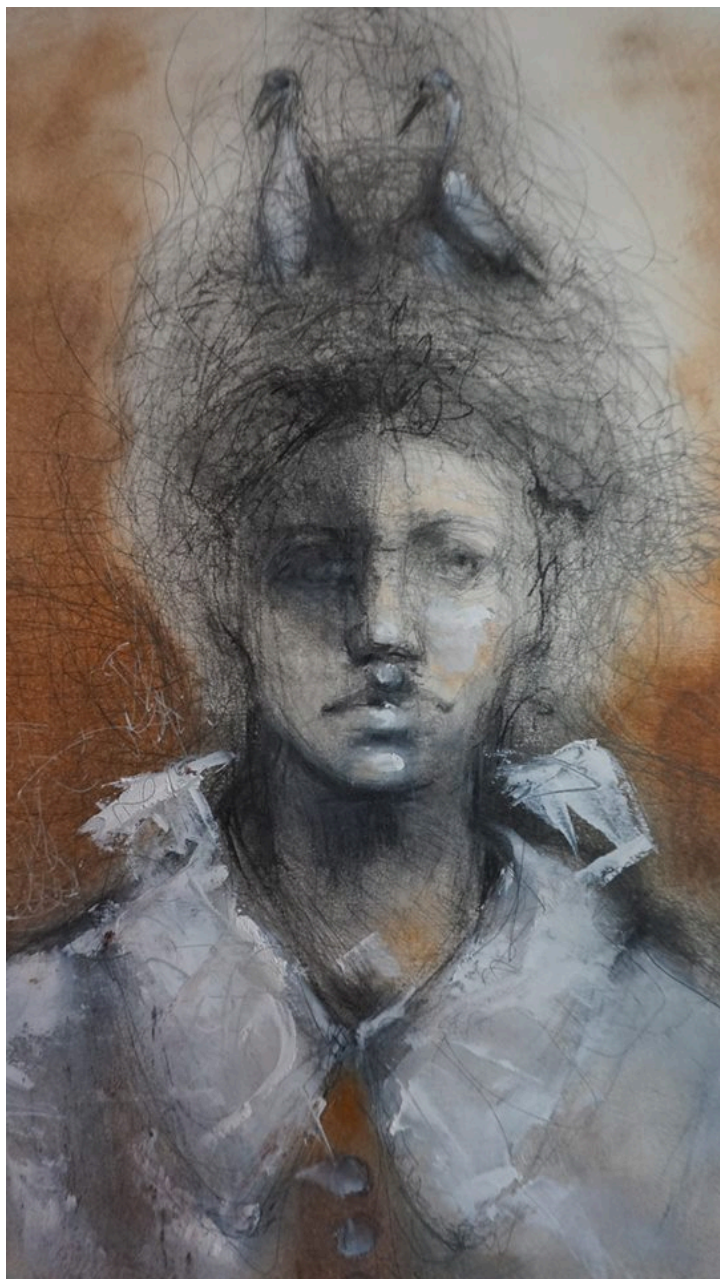
## BONUS PROJECT!!!

I have used Photoshop to superimpose these two images. I first use my photo of Karter and I. I make the photo sepia tone with my color options. I then overlay this image with my artwork of Bird's Nest Girl and lower the opacity to show the layer underneath.

You can do the same sequence using a photo app such as Image Blender or Diana where you can layer the two layers and manipulate the opacity to get the same results.



Here is the original photo



Here is the 2<sup>nd</sup> image of my artwork



Here is the image with my artwork superimposed onto the photograph and changed the color to a sepia tone

VIDEO SIXTEEN



## KARTER AND KATE

I was dead set on getting a dog, especially a German Shepard! My boyfriend said there is no other dog quite like a German Shepard. I

was away teaching and when I got home standing in the drive way was one of the most beautiful dogs I've ever seen. I instantly fell in love with him. He was a 3 year old

German Shepard rescue dog. John said it was only on a trial bases.....yeah right!

Karter was John's dog from the start and often ignored me which made me very sad.

It brought out adolescence feelings of rejection from a boy. Such crazy emotions but somehow Karter and I are developing a relationship. You will find me on the floor with him petting and hugging him which at first he rejected, later allowed, and now responds with love.









Thank you thank you thank you! Can't wait to see what you create!

Pinterest board for Children of the Wild

<https://www.pinterest.com/kateart/children-of-the-wild-images/>