

About creating “Preying for Peas” by Sue Clancy

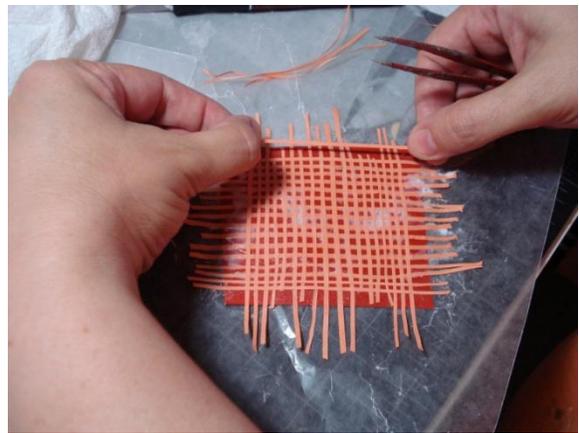


First a pencil sketch for the proposed painting commission was approved. Then (like the photo here) I dyed a bunch of papers the various colors needed for “Preying for Peas”. All of my handmade papers start out white. They’re made with mulberry fibers (and are renewable/sustainable). Any colors and patterns needed for the artwork are then given to them, by me, using a variety of paper-making methods.



Here is a drying rack full of papers ... drying.

The “basket” in the artwork to-be needed to really feel/look like a woven basket so by hand I cut and “wove” paper together .



Once all of the papers are dyed, patterned and dry I begin to cut out the necessary shapes:



Here I’m using an Xacto knife and cutting out pea vine elements. For the sake of brevity in this document – there are well over 150 cut pieces of paper - so Judy didn’t photograph me cutting out each needed shape. There ended up being many more than 150 tiny pieces of paper, somewhere along the way I lost count.

So here I am gluing some of the cut pieces together (those are tweezers in the photo):



Each stage takes time: the dying and drying stage can take weeks. The cutting out paper shapes can take weeks – as can the gluing the shapes. It's a “lived with” project of months; each day something is done towards it and allowed to dry in order to do another stage later in the day or during the next day.



Gluing some of the “background” pea vines .



Gluing still more vines...



Then - skipping ahead so as to keep this document brief - I glue the base elements onto the board...and then glue on still more bits of paper....



And so it went – gluing layers upon layers upon layers of paper until... a bit of acrylic highlight/shadow was added and then...

The piece was finished! Hope you enjoy looking at it as much as I enjoyed creating it! Thank you!



Preying for Peas

By Sue Clancy

6 x 6 x 1.5 inches (h x w x d)

Hand dyed handmade paper, handmade paste paper, and acrylic on cradled board.