

Demonstration on Zoom

March 7, 2022

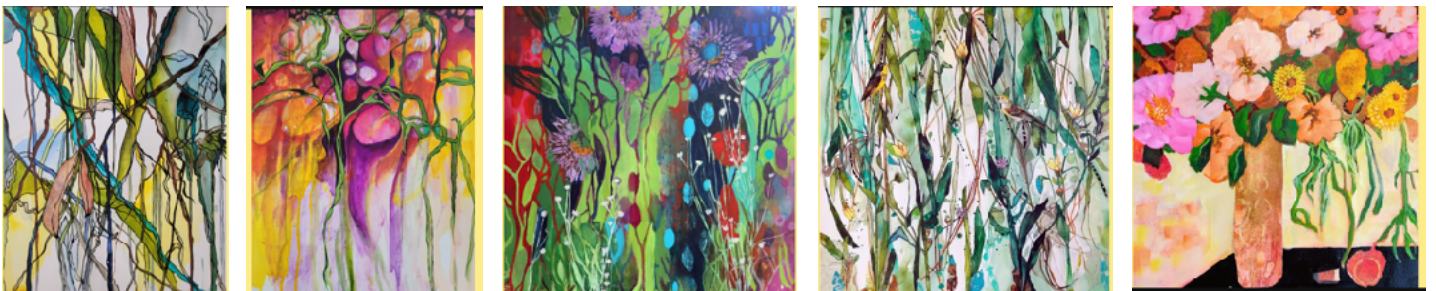
Chris Cozen - "Acrylic: Letting the Colors and Lines Flow"

Acrylic and mixed media artist, **Chris Cozen** fascinated members with her "Acrylic: Letting the Colors and Lines Flow" presentation at our March Zoom meeting. Working from her home studio in California, an audience of 33 zoomed in to watch, the most ever for an EAA monthly meeting. Chris is a newer member of Euclid Art having recently moved here from Southern California. However she continues to split her time between California and Ohio, being in Euclid from May to November.



Chris, a self-taught artist, was trained in the use and understanding of acrylic products through years of affiliation with Golden Artist Colors, Inc. where she worked as a Certified Working Artist and Artist Educator. Her years of hands-on workshops and speaking engagements have focused on acrylics and their possibilities, especially in mixed-media. Chris has written five books which explore techniques for using acrylics in a variety of applications. She also has 11 DVD's on her techniques through Artist Network.

Chris shared several of her acrylic paintings with us, confirming her love of fluid acrylic and fluid ink. She lets colors flow into each other, like a wet into wet watercolor, adding ink lines for details at the end. She loves bright colors, uses stencils and mixes paint with collage. "Explore and don't limit yourself," she said. For her it's all about looking and finding lines, colors and shapes to paint, which she loves finding during nature walks or just waiting for her car to be serviced!



The paper she recommends is Canson Montval Acrylic, 9x12, a heavyweight, textured paper that stays flat and will not buckle. Chris uses high flow and fluid acrylic transparent and opaque paints from Golden, which are professional grade paints containing good pigments. Chris knows a lot about the history of color pigment and thought that might make an interesting talk in the future. Starting with just three colors - Hansa yellow, Quinacridone magenta and manganese blue, and later adding linen white titan buff (versus titanium white), we watched her wet the brush and add paint to paper, randomly to start. Continuing to build the framework, she added some lines using Derwent Inktense pencils, which are water soluble but dry permanent. Dipping the pencil in water, she created and darkened in some stems. "I'm hard on brushes. So I don't invest in them." She loves using an angle brush.



“None of my painted flowers are botanically correct. I use ‘bits & pieces’ of God’s work to create my flowers,” she said as she added more opaque yellow over the transparent yellow to create depth. Gradually bringing more life to the composition, she pushed back colors with opaque white. She adds water to acrylic paints which allows the pigment to flow towards the edge of the paper. She does not use Floetrol. Working on several pieces at different stages, she demonstrated negative painting, emerging flowers, birds and foliage from “the chaos to create the calm”. “Birds just show up unplanned!”



At the end, Chris introduced us to Interference Color paints as a means of expanding our color library, but not the budget. On black paper this paint shimmers when dried. For more info on these paints, look it up on [Golden’s website](#). She left us with these parting words, “Good quality paints, get quality results.” Many thanks to Chris for this amazing demonstration. We look forward to more in the future. Visit her website at: www.chriscozenartist.com.