

News and Reviews  
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Diane Weeden

Book Review: Sherrill Kahn, noted mix-media artist, has a wonderful new book out called “Mixed Media Master Class”. In this one book she has pulled together a wide range of techniques for making remarkable art quilts. The techniques will also work equally well on paper, metals, for journals and fine art. Ms. Kahn has at least 5 books under her belt and this one is the best by far (most are available through the Timberland Regional Library system). Pictures are clear and instructions are well matched to ensure success, even if you haven’t yet tried to paint, stamp, add paper, or any of the other approaches she takes.

I loved the book so much that I bought her DVD “Acrylic Paint Pizzazz: Collage Techniques for Paper and Fabric”. Ms. Kahn has taught art for over 20 years and it shows. She takes you through a number of techniques in the almost 2 hour DVD at almost breakneck speed. But she is careful to let you know what paints she used and why she did a particular step. Since she works intuitively, she sometimes gets results that are unexpected, even to her, which makes the DVD even more interesting. And to cap things off, I also bought one of her stamp sets – a block of 12 deeply cut stamps that are very flexible. I haven’t gotten them out of the bag yet, but plan on using them very soon.

DVD Review: Quilting Arts TV Series 1100 is now at the TRL and like its other 10 sibs this one has some fine points and a few clunks. The production team has fine tuned the show to such an extent that there are few surprises, but that is ok. It is somehow comforting to see Pokey Bolton with her big smile and hyper-enthusiasm introducing each guest and then making sure that she is done in the allotted time. This year they chose to more or less focus on what constitutes the modern quilt movement, but not to the exclusion of some of Pokey’s favorite art quilters including Ellen Anne Eddy and Judy La Fazio. There were a number of segments with the wonderful Libby Lehman as well as at least two on-line teachers from Craftsy.Com which is now a sponsor. As with any of these QATV series, there is usually one show that I am not thrilled about, and this time it was on decorating your studio. I just am not interested in putting little fabric skirts on empty tin cans. But I certainly was interested in some of the machine quilting approaches as well as techniques on how to make your work more personal. All in all a good effort from this group.