

# Joahn Leonard

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The art that appears in this show has excitement for me over the other more traditional art I create. Call it experimental, but for me it's a chance to toss out all the rules. It's a way of answering the question that begins with: What if...? It's a challenging way to try combinations of materials and techniques that are often unfamiliar.

So, here's a joyous opportunity to accomplish artwork using materials that ordinarily might be discarded—or at best, plunked in the recycle bin or toted to Goodwill—or at worst, wind up in a landfill. I try to use whatever materials I have on hand. I also try to work with these materials employing some techniques that I may never have used or even thought of using before.

For me the best part of making art is the actual process, starting when the idea first takes shape in my head. When things are going well, one step leads to the next and I experience the idea as it takes form. I love the physical acts of applying the paint, layering the collage, or assembling the bits and pieces.

I am a self-taught artist. I don't have a formal art education. I take classes with artists I admire, but I can claim that the mistakes I make are all my own. I have found the advantage in not receiving formal art training is I never learned what I can't do, so I always figure, why, I can do that!



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