

Susan Gesundheit

I recently participated in a monotype workshop in Giogalto, a restored farming village in Tuscany. En route to the printing workshop, I visited the Giorgio Morandi Museum in Bologna. Morandi's studies of bottles and the space created in varied arrangements left a big impression on me and led me to produce my own series of monotypes of bottles, an exploration of shapes and textures.

Shape elements are actually created by changes in values, from lights to darks, a dimension I explore in my work, be it landscape, built environments, the figure, animals or still life. Texture is the element that interests me most, and is the tactile part of creating a work that brings me over to the process of experimentation.

I begin with a reference and found major shapes. With a prepared watercolor palette, lots of water and a large brush, I paint large dabs of color. I pick up the paper, turn, add more color, and let the drips show me the direction the painting will go. Sometimes a grid is formed, and I can lay in color, keeping values and contrasts in mind.

I prefer the sometimes-unpredictable quality of liquid media, and push the un-

predictably further with surface textures, employing the effects of wax resist, and multiple layers of watercolor, acrylic, or ink. This is a fulfilling process, which parallels for me the unpredictability of life, to take the imperfections, the surprises, and make a united whole of the composition.

—Susan Gesundheit



improviZations

From the Heart.....	Bleach altered papers	\$500
Gridlock.....	Bleach altered papers	\$500
Grid Pattern.....	Fused fabric.....	\$350
Joseph's Coat.....	Stamped acrylic, w/c crayon, ink.....	\$500
In Balance	Altered papers, acrylic on canvas.....	\$600
It's a Living	Acrylic, collage, wire, beads	\$200
Underwater Cool Fish.....	Fused fabric.....	\$350
Windowscape.....	Altered papers, acrylic on canvas.....	\$600