

Marilyn Gross

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What medium does Marilyn use?**
Marilyn uses mixed water media on paper and on canvas.
- 2. What is mixed water media?**
Mixed water media is the use of more than one type of water soluble pigment in the creation of a painting. These pigments (media) might include acrylic, watercolor, gouache, gesso, caran d' ache, etc.
- 3. What is the scale of her work?**
Most of Marilyn's work is 2 ft x 3 ft or larger. On occasion she may do some smaller pieces.
- 4. How does Marilyn work?**
Every painting begins the same way. Marilyn does not work from photographs or sketches. There is no drawing on the paper, no preconceived plan, no conscious idea of what that particular painting will be. Marilyn simply takes a fresh white paper or canvas and begins. She makes a mark with paint in a color, shape, and size chosen intuitively. The first intuitive mark elicits the second intuitive mark. Thus the painting proceeds, mark by mark, shape by shape, color by color. This process is a conversation between Marilyn and what is happening before her, a dance of meaning and delight intuitively unfolding before her eyes. When Marilyn senses the painting is nearly complete, she puts the work away from view for 2-3 weeks to break her emotional connection with that painting. She then inspects the painting with a fresh eye from a different perspective. Systematically, Marilyn examines the color, balance, composition, impact, and flow of the painting. She makes notes on post-it tabs and attaches them to the painting. These notes help Marilyn remember what needs adjusting to make each painting reflect her best skills!
- 5. How long has Marilyn been painting?**
She has been painting for 30+ years beginning first with pastels, then oils, until the solvents became a problem for her. At that time, Marilyn switched to watercolor. She now prefers to combine water soluble pigments into mixed media paintings.
- 6. What does Marilyn see as the most important aspect of her work?**
Color with all of its dynamic and subtle influences. It is through color that the interplay of emotions and mood can best be portrayed. Color influences how we feel, our sense of well being and our mood. Color enriches our life. The impact of color is healing to the mind, body, and spirit of the viewer.
- 7. What are Marilyn's paintings about?**
Each painting reflects the beauty and mystery of the inner workings of mind and spirit. Each painting assists the viewer in reaching a new inner perspective and sense of peace. Marilyn's intention is to create art that provides a space for joyful rest and healing.
- 8. Is all of Marilyn's work original?**
Each painting is original. Of that original, gicleés are sometimes made. This allows more people an opportunity to own her work.
- 9. What is a gicleé?**
The word gicleé (pronounced zhee-clay) is a French word which means "to spray". This actually refers to the process used for gicleé printing wherein special inks are sprayed on to a surface. That surface can be either paper or canvas which has been specially treated to accept these inks. The resulting gicleé is a high fidelity archival quality digital reproduction of an original painting. Sometimes these gicleés are hand embellished by the artist which adds a unique touch to each one.
- 10. What is Marilyn's painting style?**
Her work is abstract in style and mostly non-representational. A broad spectrum of symbols form a layered network of meaning and healing. In time, the viewer discovers these hidden forms and meanings, adding immeasurably to their appreciation and enjoyment of the painting.