

Try It Tuesdays: Altered Postcards using Photo Transfers

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Approx. Time Involved: 40-60 Minutes + Drying Time

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Claudia Says: "I have a Fine Arts Degree with emphasis in drawing and ceramics. I wish I could say, hey.. I taught myself everything (that sounds so cool), well I taught myself some stuff because drawing and ceramics aren't mixed media..okay I kinda taught myself. I love art and I can finally do it and not feel too guilty except of course when my dogs sit there and shed all over me (and my work) or bark and drop their toys on my feet. Now some people might not be impressed but my dogs are big (huge) and when they really want something they usually get it. They are Newfies and when they speak I usually listen (did I mention they are huge). I recently have started showing in galleries in Denver and I am trying to combine my fine art with my mixed media. So far so good. Things are going well. Love making assemblages which is a brand new direction for me." Read more about Claudia at her [Blog](#), and be sure to check out [her current creations for sale](#) too!



Materials List:

- **Inkjet Printed Transparency Images** (*adjust contrast a bit higher if you know how*)
- **Old Postcard** (*Preferably used, with postage*)
- **Gesso**
- **Ephemera**
- ***Background Stamp** (*optional*)
- ***Assorted Stamps** (*optional*)
- ***Black Staz-On or Waterproof Ink** (*if you use stamps*)
- **Inks, Paints, Pencils** (*optional*)
- **Spray Sealer, Spray Matte Medium or Hairspray**

**Skip the steps with the stamping if you'd prefer not to use them.*

Prep:

- **Spray sealer on postcard to seal any inks, allow to dry.**

Let's Play!

1. Dilute gesso, and brush over postcard with a few thin coats.

TIP!! *The idea here is to be able to see some information peeking out from the gesso. Wipe the postage if necessary to be able to see it.*

2. Use your background stamp, and randomly stamp over the gesso.

TIP!! *Stamping doesn't have to be even. Claudia used a script stamp, then some older date stamps over the postage to add interest.*

3. Brush gel medium over entire piece.

4. While gel medium is still wet, add a few pieces of ephemera (*In example Claudia used earth toned scraps*) to it. Run a credit card over the paper, wait a few minutes and then peel the pieces up. Some will stick and some won't.

5. Take the transparency and lay it over the top of your postcard. Determine if you need more ephemera or less.

TIP!! *You can paint thin layers of gesso over the areas that have too much information and add more to the other areas that need color or interest.*

6. Pick the transparency you are going to use, determine placement, then paint gel medium over that area. Lay ink jet transparency printed side down (*slick side up*), rub with credit card or burnish with the tool you like to use. Place a weight on it and walk away for about 15 minutes. *Go eat some chocolate or dust something, keep away for about 15 minutes. I mean it!*

7. Check the transfer by lifting only a corner. If it's ok, peel it all away. Okay people, let me say, **IT WILL NOT BE PERFECT**, get over that, and work with what you have. It will look very cool trust me.

TIP!! *Sometimes if the gel dries too fast and doesn't transfer all the image, simply rub a bit of gel on the paper and rub again. I think faces are most important to get down so it looks cohesive.*

8. Now add embellishments, maybe stamp some numbers (my favorite) or letters. Maybe a bit of ink for color or what ever else you like to use.

TIP!! *Sometimes it's good to leave it for a while so you can see with new eyes.*

Now paste some notebook or journal paper to the back and send that baby through the mail !!

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