

CLASS ACT: PRETTY NICE CREATIONS



INSTRUCTOR RACHEL COURTNEY - JULIE AYN PHOTOGRAPHY

BY RON EVANS

Artist/instructor Rachel Courtney moved to Wenatchee from Las Cruces, NM, in September 2018 and immediately became immersed in the local art scene. She has been hosting classes for a variety of arts and crafts around the valley including one of her favorite techniques, alcohol ink paintings. “I had been involved in several art groups exploring a variety of art media which introduced me to alcohol ink. I fell in love with its beauty and wanted to share it with everyone. Alcohol ink is typically an art that requires a bit of investment to get started. Colors come in packs of 3 (for \$12!) and a wide variety of colors can be more expensive than many beginners may be willing to spend. My thought was to share the colors I had with some friends and family and show them the fun you can have creating abstract art. Since I began, I’ve taught 192 people from as young as 4 years old.”

How did you get started?

My first class in Wenatchee was in June

2019. I really missed sharing art with others, so I visited with my friend Kmbris Bond who knew someone with some space - Chad Yenney at Collapse Contemporary Art Gallery.

Are there any that have been more popular than others?

Kmbris Bond and I teach basket weaving and it is sold out almost every time. Many people have access to pine needles and want to use that resource. Some go camping or hunting and are interested in ways to pass the time. Alcohol ink is always a win and rock painting fills up more than you would guess.

What is something unexpected that you teach?

Especially with longer classes I stress the need to get up, stretch by standing up straight, and extending the arms. I encourage students to look at other’s work and to look at something far away to reset their eyes. We have to take care of our

bodies.

Where do you teach?

We started at Collapse, then we recently added a second venue - Hard Hat Winery. They approached us because they enjoy hosting this type of thing. We also do home-based classes for private groups.

How do you pick what’s coming next?

Great question. Based on numbers from previous classes and whatever ideas we dream up. Sometimes our host will suggest something (like wine-bottle macrame) and sometimes students make suggestions. Sometimes when we think outside of the box people don’t show up. But sometimes it works. You just never know.

So many artists struggle with organization and things like making a class happen with registration, taking payment, promotion and venue relations. I am happy to offer that service to other artists and would

love to see different classes popping up.

Email me at pretty.nice.creations@gmail.com or visit prettynicecreations.com/event to register for classes.

FULL SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CLASSES

First Friday Jewelry Class

Friday, March 6 from 5 to 8 pm.
Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Tasting Room
137 N. Wenatchee Ave., Suite 101
Join Rachel as she displays her variety of art projects as well as offers instructions on how to create Jamberry Jewelry (earrings and pendants from vinyl nail wraps).
First pair is free - any pair after that is \$5.

DIY Macrame Bottle Class

Sunday, March 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Hard Hat Winery
Create your own macrame bottle with detailed instruction from Kmbris and



Rachel. Make a vase or a bottle with a handle. Supplies will be provided for this quasi-macrame class - \$35.

Tree of Life Class

Saturday, March 14 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Collapse

Betsy and Rachel will lead you through this introductory class in creating your own wire-sculpted tree of life. The class is \$35 and includes supplies. If you would like to bring your own beads, you are welcome to.

Cactus Rock Painting Class

Saturday, March 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Collapse

Get creative and make several different "succulent" rocks for your garden! We will focus on different types of cacti you can paint and you will go home with a

mini pot that will stay green. All materials will be provided. The class is \$35 and includes supplies. If you would like to bring your own rocks, you are welcome to.

Pine Needle Basket Weaving

Sunday, March 22 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Hard Hat Winery

Sunday, April 26 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Hard Hat Winery

Use pine needles and waxed linen to weave together baskets using our step by step instructions/demonstration. All materials will be provided. The class is \$35 and includes supplies.

Basket Weaving with Kaila Russell

Saturday, March 28 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Collapse

Join guest teacher Kaila Russell, from Carnation, Wa. for this 3 hour class and

make an 8-10 inch round basket using dyed and natural round reeds. No weaving experience needed. Just willing hands. All supplies provided - \$45

Alcohol Ink Creations

Saturday, April 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Collapse

Learn to create abstract pieces of alcohol ink artwork. This intro class will focus on greeting cards for Mother's or Father's Day. The class is \$35 and includes supplies.

DIY Wrap Bracelet Class

Saturday, April 25 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Collapse

Learn to make wrap bracelets using leather, buttons, c-lon and beads with instruction from Rachel Courtney. The class is \$35 and includes supplies. If you would

like to bring your own beads you are welcome to, but it is not necessary.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Collapse Contemporary Art Gallery is at 115 S. Wenatchee Ave.

Hard Hat Winery Tasting Room is at One 5th Street, Ste. 160

Register at prettynicecreations.com/event