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# GELLI PLATE TIPS AND NINE STARTER ART TAGS



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# INTRODUCTION

In so many of my workshops and art tutorials, I can be seen using the Gelli Arts Printing Plate - or at least using up scraps from previous experiments.

It's probably the tool I get asked about most frequently - there are so many sizes and shapes of the plate now, and even more, ways to use it.

My first experience with the Gelli Plate was less than memorable. I kind of remember thinking that it looked and felt weird and that I had no idea what to do with it. It took a few sessions for me to really get the hang of it and to realize that this was a tool that required some "out of the box" thinking.

Now I can confirm that it one of my most favorite mixed-media toys, and today I'm going to tell you why.





# THE STARTING POINT

The Gelli Plate is the perfect art tool when you are unsure about what to create, or you fancy a bit of mindless creative fun.

Sometimes, if I don't have much time, or I'm not feeling inspired or motivated, I'll pull out my Gelli Plate and make a stack of backgrounds. There's something very therapeutic about brayering paint around and just letting things happen.

It's the perfect place to experiment with pattern and paint, and you end up with endless awesome papers for future creative play. Occasionally I'll get a print that is so "journal worthy" that I simply have to glue it in and layer it with other painty goodness.

## THE SUPPLIES

While I work with the Gelli Plate, I like to keep a stack of various different paper types next to me. My favorites include newsprint, cardstock, newspaper, shipping tags, watercolor paper, Anthropologie catalogs, text paper from various books and other random papers I've collected in my studio.

From a paint perspective, I've found that cheaper acrylic paints work best. You want a fluid consistency that contains a little water - this allows for nice, smooth rolling with a brayer and stays wet for longer.

Paint that dries fast is a bit trickier to work with as you have to work faster. You can extend drying time by using a glazing medium, but I don't use this often (unless I really feel the need to work with one of my favorite heavy body acrylics).

I typically pull out a variety of different paints, but I tend to choose those based on color rather than the type of paint. Printmaking is fun that way - it's all about the experimentation.

Other tools that work great with the Gelli Plate are any mark-making tools you have at your fingertips. Simply apply paint to the Gelli Plate, roll with a brayer and then draw into the paint using things like the end of your paintbrush, plastic lids, scraper tools, Q-tips... the possibilities are endless!



# LOOKING AFTER YOUR GELLI PLATE

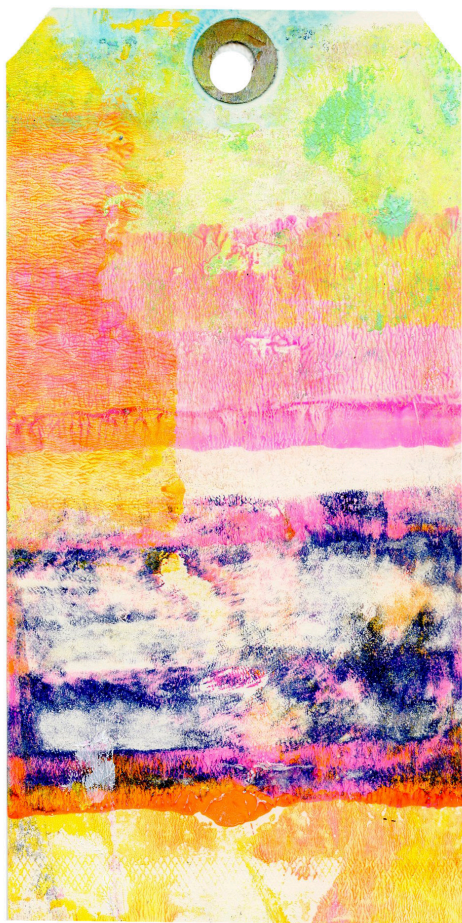
Always use your Gelli Plate on a non-porous surface. The plate contains natural minerals that can seep into your more porous surfaces, but anything like craft mats, freezer paper, and Plexiglas will stop this from happening. The Gelli Plate also comes with two sheets of plastic sheeting inside its packaging which works great too.

I'd advise cleaning your Gelli Plate before putting it away - I like to use a baby wipe or a damp cloth (both of which can be incorporated into other projects once they're covered in juicy paint!).

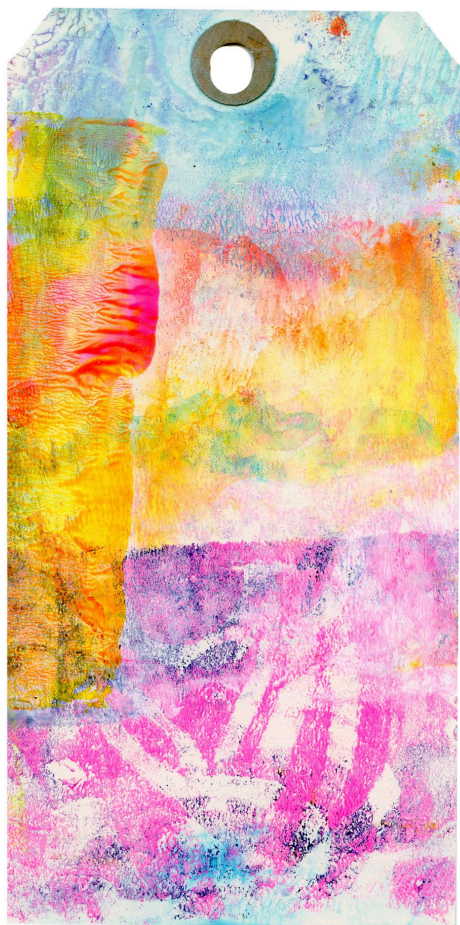
For Gelli Printing inspiration, take a look at my video tutorial **HERE**.

















# WAYS TO USE YOUR ARTSY TAGS

- Gift tags on wrapped packages
- Hang on an inspiration board
- Use as a business card
- Use as a base for experimenting with art techniques (front) and add directions to the back
- Swap with your friends
- Journal on them and tuck into a pocket in your journal
- Mail as a greeting card
- Display for inspiration
- Tie onto the outside of your journals
- Use as bookmarks
- Place cards for seating assignments at weddings or parties
- Christmas tags
- Use for writing notes
- Greeting card add-ins
- Make little photo albums with them
- Ornaments
- Shopping lists
- Gift card holders
- Tip-in and pockets inside journals for extra writing space
- Recipe cards
- Make tags with positive messages and leave them out in the community.



# PLAYING TAG ART WORKSHOP

## About Roben-Marie

Roben-Marie provides ideas, inspiration and quality instructions for hobbyists and art entrepreneurs. She teaches artists from beginners to those making a living from their art through her blog and her popular online workshops.

As an artist, blogger, woman of faith and the owner of Paperbag Studios LLC, her mission is to serve others and help them get the most out of their art as a hobby, or as a business. Her own desire to learn and unquenchable curiosity keeps her fingers messy and her heart happy.

Roben-Marie has been an artist for the last ten years and is self-taught, so she believes that anyone can cultivate their creative spark. She's taught mixed media art workshops and retreats across the U.S. and her work has been featured in countless books and industry magazines.

Links:

**Website**

**Instagram:** @robenmarie

**Twitter:** @robenmarie

**Facebook**

**Shop**

