

Hello all -

I am putting together a decorated envelope exchange and hoping you will be part of it. This is for all skill levels and the object is to have fun and experiment. It only needs to be decorated in some form or fashion. "Formal" calligraphy is **not** a requirement.

Decorating Techniques to try on the envelope:

- ❖ Use rubber stamps or stickers
- ❖ Paint a broad band of color across the envelope and letter the address on it
- ❖ Create a border along one side
- ❖ Fill in counter spaces of the letters with color
- ❖ Do a water color wash on the envelope before addressing it
- ❖ Create a collage using ephemera (magazine/newspaper/photos etc.)
- ❖ Paint a picture on the envelope

Technique ideas to try on the envelope:

- ❖ Using the same lettering style, use a larger nib for the name than the address
- ❖ Use a different color for the name than the address
- ❖ Pen the name in a different lettering style than the address
- ❖ Put the name in large letters beside the address
- ❖ Do the first or last name in larger letters and write the other name through it, above it, or beside it

Top 10 Reasons for doing this exchange:

10. You will never have to decide what to write (The name and address are a given)
9. Nobody will be offended by your choice of words!
8. Choosing the right paper isn't a problem
7. Only knowing one lettering style isn't an issue
6. A place to practice new lettering styles
5. It's a good place to use your collection of rubber stamps, stickers, and the like
4. Experiment with new techniques or dust an old one off
3. Brighten a postal worker's day
2. Impress the recipients of your envelopes
1. It's FUN!!!

Now are you hooked yet???.....Below you will find the very simple guide lines for the exchange. If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Here is a sample of a matrix/grid:

	Tom	Jeri	Brenda	Rick	Kathy
October	Jeri	Brenda	Rick	Kathy	Tom
November	Brenda	Rick	Kathy	Tom	Jeri
December	Rick	Kathy	Tom	Jeri	Brenda
January	Kathy	Tom	Jeri	Brenda	Rick

With 5 participants the exchange would last 4 months and as you would only be responsible for 1 envelope per month. That's it. How easy is that?? One thing I will request is that there is "something" inside the envelope as who wants to get an empty one, right? This doesn't have to be calligraphic at all and could be a short description of materials and techniques used or even a little bio about yourself or what you like outside of calligraphy/art or what got you started in art/calligraphy (you get the picture)

This exchange will run from MAY through OCTOBER. So, each group will have 7 people. I will do my best to mix folks up between guilds

If you would like to be in multiple groups please let me know when you send me your request.

NOTE: If at any time or for any reason you cannot finish the exchange please notify me immediately and I will find someone to finish out the exchange for you. Thank you for this consideration as everyone will be expecting to get an envelope every month.

I will setup a dropbox for the entire group. I encourage you to take pictures of your envelopes and send them to me and I post to dropbox that way everyone can enjoy each others little postal masterpieces, not just the addressee. More info later on this.

Please include the following in your request:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

EMAIL: yes I know I can get it from the email header but having it here is helpful when building the matrix/sending out the emails to the groups

Number of Groups: Basically how many envelopes you want to do each month.

I hope to be flooded with eager envelope exchange participants the next time I check my mail. Please respond by April 22nd, Earth Day, to be part of FUN. My plan will be to have the groups completed and sent out by May 1st.

Thanks,

Thomas Burns
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