

Demonstrator

November, 2011



Bettie Lake

Bettie Lake: I retired from a thirty year career of teaching art and technology and wondered what would catch my fancy in my retirement. I have spent several years mastering photography, acrylic painting, web design and teaching creativity, so naturally thought I would return to one of these areas. Instead, I went to my first gourd festival and was astonished at the quality of work possible with this media. I met and talked to several of the artists and they told me about the "patches" and invited me to visit their organizations. I recently joined the Southwest Gourd Patch of Arizona and am learning new skills, handling new tools and letting my creative ideas wrap around a new media.

I started out creating hand painted jewelry, and then I learned to wood burn and elaborate my jewelry with burn lines and texture. Then I bought a Dremal and began to learn about power carving. To see a gallery of my more recent work go to www.gourdblossomjewelry.com. You can take a look at my jewelry.

"Zen Doodling With Bettie" My work is all about patterns. My art work goes beyond the popular "zentangling" art form and takes doodling onto another level! Retired from a career of teaching art to children, I now bring my skills to adults. It is so much fun, relaxing and easy! This is an art form that is alive and well on the Blog Sphere. My "Zen Doodling with Bettie" blog shares my own patterns with others and allows me to converse with other zentangle lovers. To find out more about the art form check out the official site at zentangle.com. This art is easy to learn and fun. The patterns are simple and are usually drawn on a grid of triangles, squares and dots.

The "zen" part comes from the focus it takes to connect your repeating lines cleanly. In the process you relax and forget yourself and the time. Many people struggling with pain disorders are finding this art form a great stress reliever. Best of all, when you finish, the pattern composition is impressive. Please email me if you are interested in a pieces or would like to know more about my classes here in Phoenix.