

# Mary Elizabeth Nelson

## Bio:

I am a lettering and book artist with a background in fine art. For the last 50 years I have turned my attention to calligraphy and book arts. In 1989 I travelled to China and studied Chinese calligraphy and painting for 6 weeks. I continue to study throughout the United States. My work was selected for the first Graceful Envelope Contest and is now in the permanent collection of the National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution. I am an active member in Calligraphic and Book Arts Societies and published in some books and magazines. I have actively taught throughout the tri-county area of Southeast Pennsylvania and continue to teach out of my studio in Downingtown. Nature printing has become my latest passion. Eco prints and the cyanotype process, with natural materials being my subject of choice. With eco prints, there is always an element of surprise, cyanotypes offer vast possibilities for experimentation and each print is an individual piece of art, and I fashion them into a variety of book structures, and cards which can be framed. Fabrics and papers may have embroidery on them. I am always exploring and constantly surprised with the end result. The vast array of natural plant materials found in Pennsylvania and Maine, have inspired me to make these paper and fabric structures. Each book, card or framed piece is made with fine art materials.



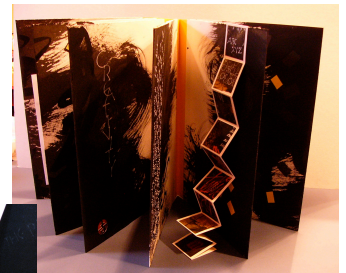
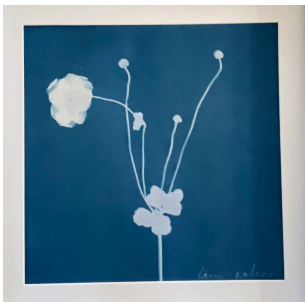
## Artist's Statement:

The beauty of life surrounds us in all its forms. It abounds in nature from the intricate design of a tiny snowflake to the splendor of a mountain vista. We need only to take the time to see.

When my fingers touch a piece of paper or fabric I handle it as I would a rock or a leaf, feeling the grain, the texture; the warmth or coolness it imparts. When we allow something to speak to us we open ourselves up to a myriad of possibilities. Inspiration comes most often from something in nature that will prompt me to create a piece of art. Or perhaps a word or phrase will ignite an idea. Then I'll seek out the appropriate materials. Whether paper or fabric, a long time is spent just touching, feeling the essence within.

As artists we all have different ways of working. When I create a piece I allow myself the time and space to be a conduit for that presence reaching out for the revelation of visual expression. In so doing most of the creative process is spent seeking, feeling, gathering, arranging, rearranging--- touching, becoming. I don't do many roughs or mock ups, sometimes none at all.

The doing is the process.  
The journey continues.



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