Paul Bozzo

Artist Statement

I have been developing "textured paintings" for over 50 years. I first became enamored with textures in the ceramic classes I had right here on campus in the "old" Allen Hall. Using a common construction material, joint compound, I developed ways to make textures on Masonite. Using acrylic paints and varnishes, I also developed ways of adding color to the textures.

A few years ago, I renewed my love of hiking and learned to carry a camera and tripod to capture images from all over Tioga County. Mostly I hike creeks to shoot the water, pools, cascades, and waterfalls. During the 'Spring of Covid' in 2020, I began experimenting with combining painting images with landscape photographs in the "digital darkroom." It is possible to place one image on top of another in typical photo programs. The image on top can be made semi-transparent and erased so that some of the underlying image is visible. For example, I began with this image.
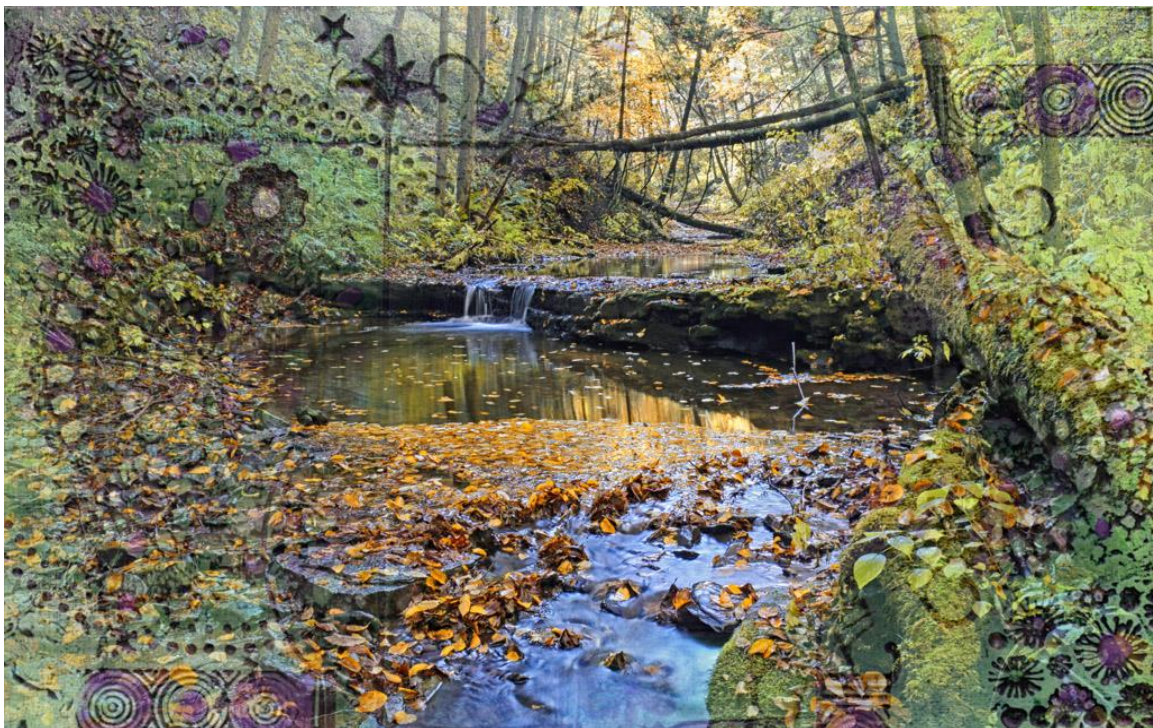
I placed this painting image on top of the creek image.

I worked to eliminate much of the painting image to allow the landscape image to show.

I'm enjoying the moods and color combinations that I can create. My paintings are somewhat organic in nature and seem well suited to be "married" with my images of the natural world. I've found that I can improve compositions by allowing the top image to hide some of the 'unsuitable' details in the bottom image. I have a large catalogue of paintings using many

color schemes. I strive to create new colors when combining painting photographs with landscape photographs. I frame these composite images the same way I frame my paintings. No glass is involved. The photographic print is mounted on the same material I use for my paintings (Masonite) and is protected by five coats of a type of varnish.