

Student comments on the WD-40 classes:

"A teacher of the many worlds within yourself and in what you see around you. She makes art of everything and helps you make art of yourself."

Stewart Stern, screenwriter, *Rebel Without a Cause*,

"An amazing opportunity to explore your creativity, with an inspired artist.

Ellen leads you to explore ideas and techniques through experimentation, loosening your expectations, stimulating your process and enticing the creative flow. I enthusiastically recommend it to anyone who wants to enjoy playing again."

Sedora DeBondt, *photographer and UX Designer/Content Experiences, MSN Entertainment, Microsoft*

"Studying with Ellen is an extraordinary experience.

She calls out new levels of creative expression and the ability to articulate unformed ideas. At the same time she provides great fundamental design training and permission to be wildly expansive with new mediums. Fun, provocative, sensitive, supportive, informative. Every class is the best adventure you'll have all week."

Posy Gering *President, NextU*

"Your generosity in sharing ideas, materials and your work created an open, exploratory atmosphere."

Cassandra Kobayashi, *attorney*

In my day job as an industrial designer everything must be done within budget and time constraints. Inevitably, these on-demand creative solutions tend toward ones that experience teaches as sure things. Your class is well named! The degrees of freedom you encourage can be a bit unsettling but the effect of exploring solutions that are not sure things is a stretching exercise worth doing. My day to day work is enhanced as a result.

Don Aupperle, *President, AAI Corporation*

"Great teaching and great environment!"

Kendal Detrick,
major accounts sales executive, Ikon Office Solutions

"What I liked most about the class was the effective warm-up into working intuitively. There was no tension about what to do or what it would look like.

I always go home invigorated and have done my best work in your classes."

Chris Houser, *site manager, MSN, Microsoft Corporation*

"We're just gluing some scraps of paper and other stuff," I told my husband, "and sometimes we put paint on them." Yet the outcome of the WD-40 workshop has been a new and unexpected comment to cultivating my own creative impulses—keeping a visual journal for the first time, taking a camera when I go out—coupled with much needed affirmation for doing what often feels like nothing much at all.

Becky Novelli, *artist*

"This is pure fun! Just what I was looking for."

Eva Isaksen, *artist*

"This is one of the best classes I have taken in years. There is no stress, plenty of personal challenge, good music and companionship with other artists...and the instructor cleans up for us!"

Kappy Trigg, *artist*

"Rarely does one get the opportunity to work in such a private and personal setting with an artist whose own body of work is such an inspiration. To have her gently coaxing forth one's own artistic creativity is truly special. Ellen guides you to the value within your own artistic soul. A journey that must be taken and not to be missed."

Marilee Stiles Stern, *former dancer, New York City Ballet*

"I read somewhere that making art is like dreaming on paper. WD-40 allows you to explore that realm with no rules – a time to play, create and think, and give the brain exercise in seeing things in a different way."

Karen Bocz, *co-owner, Gary Bocz Salon*

"Great roomful of energy! Especially nice to not have to cart bags of supplies/things to and from class and fun to be surprised with the 'what's next'. Love the book/text and collage tie-ins – all very much up my alley."

Suzan Fant, *artist*

"Thank you for this opportunity... being in your class feels like water nourishing parts of me that were virtually deserted long ago."

Gayle St. Luise, *massage therapist*

"The best thing about this workshop is that you get to be five again. There are basic techniques suggested by the materials; other than that, you are free to experiment and explore... You will become more confident expressing your artistic self in other areas of your life."

Shannon Day, *recovering attorney*

"I am a dental hygienist. When I pick up my tools I know exactly what they do, and I know what the outcome will be. With each exercise we do in WD-40 the possibilities are endless – this class helped me legitimize what I see. It was freeing to experiment in a totally nonjudgmental environment."

Jennifer Larsen, *dental hygienist*

"Ellen introduced many rejuvenating techniques that influenced creativity, positive attitude, confidence, risktaking... the [corporate] workshop inspired each individual to do the best for themselves and for each other."

Kari Saccomanno, *Creative Team Manager, Coldwater Creek, Inc.*

Ellen is an inspiring artist and a fabulous facilitator of the creative process. She provides the environment, the materials and exercises to get you playing with form, texture, color, imagery in ways you might never think to do on your own. "Play" is the operative word here. It's a liberating experience. There are no goals, no judgments....only process. Amazing things happen!

Linda James
Artist, Graphic Designer