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This little how-to is to accompany the Postcards video you can find on YouTube at http://youtu.be/oGb6GK_sa64

Cut your substrate paper to 8"x12". This will result in four postcards that are 4"x6". You will be working on the large sheet, and then cutting it into the four quarters. The goal is to paint/collage/draw on the whole sheet of paper such that when you cut it into quarters, each quarter is distinct. You want to avoid an all-over pattern, or four cards that look the same. This approach challenges you to create *variety*, a key component of interesting composition. It keeps you on your creative toes, encouraging you to try something new.

1. Paint. I use acrylic, but you could use watercolor. Establish variety in this first layer; do not paint an all-over "background". Use various colors; use some lights, darks, neutrals, and saturated bright colors. See the video for a few painting techniques. Let the paint dry.
2. Collage. Add color, text, transparent materials, etc. Let the piece dry.
3. Stamp. Do not create an all-over pattern, but use stamps to create image or pattern in select areas.
4. Draw. Make lines with markers, Pitt Pens, gel pens, metallic pens, graphite, oil pastel, etc. Use your favorite drawing tools.
5. Cut the piece into four equal sections. Look at each quarter carefully; look at it in different orientations, and decide which way is "up".
6. *Do something* to each section to "finish" it. This can be adding collage, painting over an area, using line, image, stitching, embellishing, anything. If one or more of your sections seems complete on its own, then leave it. This is also an active decision.



◀ This is the piece I made in the video. You can see that each of the quarters will be quite different from the others, though there will be overlap of shapes and patterns, and they will have some colors in common.



▲ To this card I added some quiacridone gold paint in the upper right. When in doubt, add quin gold!



▲ This one needed a heart. What can I say? It's February!



▲ Both of the above I decided to leave as is. They didn't seem to need a thing.