

OUR ART OUR REGION OUR TIME



Tea with Peter Rabbit

11" x 9"

Double-sided matte Film, pastels,
ceramic knife and colored pencils

Amanda Bancroft

<https://www.facebook.com/AmandaBancroftArt/>

Bio

Amanda Bancroft is an artist, writer and naturalist living and working at the Historic Johnson Farm near Kessler Mountain. The focus of her work is the preservation of this treasure on the National Register of Historic Places protected by a conservation easement held by the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust. She has produced work for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and private clients in addition to operating a greeting card business for the past ten years. Instead of paper, traditional 2D drawings are done in about 60-100 hours on double-sided matte film, with a sponge application of pan pastels, fine cuts made by a ceramic knife, and details added in artist-grade colored pencils. Her drawings are combined with her original poems on the back side, to create uplifting cards unique on the market for both the design and dedication to ancestors or inspirational people. One example of this combination is an illustration on a valentine's day card: a steaming cup of tea inside a mailbox with other valentines, magically sent via "Teamail." The poem describes a nearly impossible delivery that defeats the odds to reach the recipient. "I brewed a pot of tea today, and mailed a cup to you, to make the miles melt away and have our tea for two." (excerpt) The card's dedication is in memory of the artist's beloved Aunt Pat (1947-2021) who mailed the best valentines throughout her life. Cards are sold at Terra Studios Art Gallery, Pearl's Books and Ozark Natural Foods Co-op in Fayetteville. When not drawing or writing, Amanda can often be found outdoors in the company of wild rabbits.

Artist Statement

"Tea with Peter Rabbit" is dedicated to a woman whose life I seek to emulate: Beatrix Potter. Before she was famous for her children's books and her contributions to the natural sciences and farmland preservation, she drew bunny greeting cards to receive her very first paycheck as a working artist. By the end of her career, she protected over 4,000 acres now within the National Trust in England. This simple drawing is my celebration of her humble beginning and my hope to save land. While many artists make prints of their originals, I find deep personal satisfaction in printing eco-friendly greeting cards for people who wish to connect with their loved ones via the mail system which sustained my relationships to family and friends. For me, this piece represents love for our special people, our land, and our history, with a sense of humor stirred in.