

# STAMP ROOM

## Cheryl Venum's "Evolving Art Room 1992-2003"

*Editor's Note: For sharing her stamp room, Cheryl wins her choice of any ten back issues. For details on how you can share your stamp room ideas in VSN, see page 43.*

The evolution of my art room began about eleven years ago. In the beginning, my rubber stamping hobby occupied our formal dining room. Like so many beginning stampers, my space consisted of a dining room table covered with stamping supplies and storage for a couple dozen wood-mounted stamps. Now my "art supplies" occupy an entire room, formerly the 14' x 15' living room. My "Art Room/Studio" is the first room you see as you enter my home; it is a very special place and gets the biggest praises from friends and other visitors.

I began my hobby by making note cards and it has evolved into a small business of rubber stamped "for sale" products such as handmade journals, gift baskets, luminaries, bookmarks, gift boxes and other gifts. My husband, Mickey, shares the space in the Art Room and he makes paper crafts and wood-burned plaques and boxes. He also helps me assemble the journals and has become the crafter of the room. He built all of the wooden stamp shelves, storage shelves and the paper cabinet used for storage

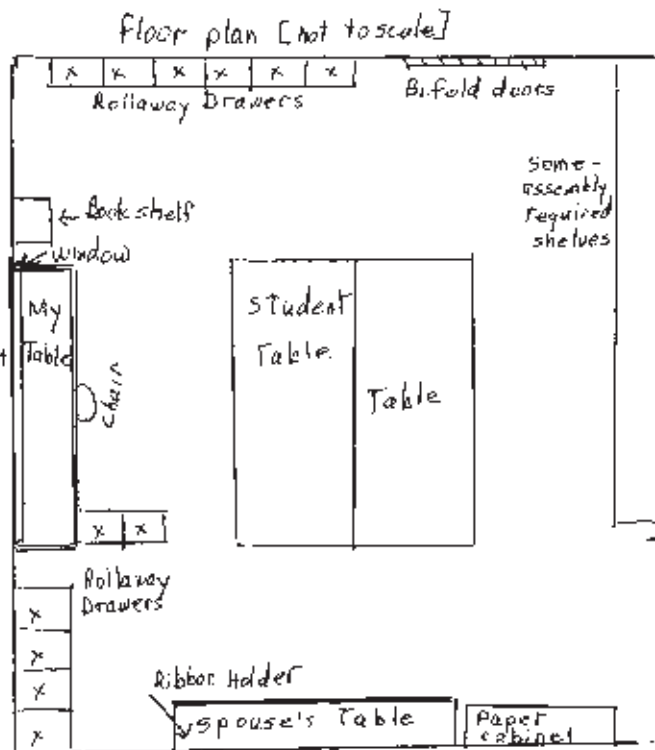


*West & North walls showing rollaway drawers, vertical book shelf and display (storage) of rubber stamps on the wall.*

of large sheets of imported, exotic handmade papers. His last creation (my favorite) is the ribbon storage unit. It holds about fifty spools of ribbons/cording. My husband has been my biggest supporter and creator of my art space – wonderful, wonderful! How very lucky I am!

My husband and I created the Art Room in increments over a period of about ten years. It took that long to

create the art room because we did not know exactly what we would do, the most appropriate storage for new possessions, what space was needed for creating and how much this experience would cost. We are a patient, cautious couple and we progressed according to how our art developed, keeping in mind what we accumulated. Our room moved forward as we did and followed this sequence:



1<sup>st</sup>: Installation of some-assembly-needed shelving for storage of cardstock, bookmaking paper and envelopes. Two large tables were moved into the room, one for Mickey and one for me at the west-facing window (best place to view Arizona sunsets.)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Installation of additional narrow shelving for rubber stamps.

3<sup>rd</sup>: Several rollaway storage drawers were placed underneath the stamps.

4<sup>th</sup>: Two additional large tables were placed in the middle of the room used for

assembly of multiple projects and teaching in-home rubber stamp classes.

5<sup>th</sup>: We installed three-level wall shelving for storage of large tools and additional supplies such as a Xyron machine, light tables, paper cutters and instructional videos.

6<sup>th</sup>: We wall-mounted a narrow vertical bookshelf used for storage of 3-ring binder notebooks of unmounted stamps, rubber stamp magazines, how-to books and a couple of 3-ring binders containing instruction/idea sheets.

7<sup>th</sup>: The paper cabinet was moved into the room and has a dual use: to store handmade papers and used as a drying area when the shelves are pulled out of the cabinet.

8<sup>th</sup>: A ribbon holder was developed so I could store my ribbons, allowing for easy access and quick viewing of my inventory.

As you can see, every inch of space has been set up to accommodate any art-related activities. In addition, I have storage in some drawers and under the tables for completed “for-sale” items. I also have a huge plastic tub containing papermaking supplies: paste, paints, sponges, blender, etc. I usually work in a quiet space, but for times when music is needed, I have a wireless speaker to help set a mood.



My husband and I are great organizers and planners. One great idea for finding all my “stuff” was to create a template of each plastic drawer of each column of drawers. Since each drawer is labeled, I can locate anything by checking my “where to find it list” – that is if I take the time to keep the list updated!

I organized samples of new technique experiments in envelopes I made from discarded computer paper. I titled each one and inserted my samples



and arranged the envelopes in alphabetical order in one drawer. Such envelope titles include batik, background styles, Colluzzle parts, gemstone, shadow stamping, acetate, metallic backgrounds, Pearl-Ex, compressed sponging, Radiant Pearls, watercolor, etc. I also store dried flowers in a similar fashion, placing them in a plastic tub by color and type.

Though I have the space and organizational traits, I don't always have a dedicated space for everything – or the urge to put everything in a dedicated place.

I have got to have a little disarray or my room wouldn't be the room of an Artist!



East Wall showing storage of rubber stamps and paper storage.



Paper Cabinet/Drying Rack (South Wall)