

## Peacock Blue

*A peacock struts his stuff for his peahens*

Media: Intaglio etching (see definition tab)

Dimensions: image 10" x 4.75"; framed 12.5" x 17.5"

For sale at: <https://www.paggart.com/>

**Background:** My parents raised peafowl on our farm. They were raised in a menagerie of birds and animals they exhibited, simply for the joy of sharing these animals with people. For more than 50 years, hundreds of children and adults came to our family farm to see the peafowl and other animals. My parents often gave out peacock feathers\* to children—sometimes to a lucky adult.

**Amelia Island:** Domestic peafowl live on this island—descendants of a domesticated pair brought here in the 1960s. Most of the fowl make their homes in the area that connects the First Coast Highway with Amelia Island Parkway. Hearing their eerie calls and seeing them here made me feel right at home when I first moved to the island.

**Nature Facts:** *Peacock* is a general term that refers to birds of both sexes. Peacocks are males and peahens are females; collectively they are peafowls. The group of peacocks is a *muster* or *party*. A family is a *bevy*. The baby peafowl is, adorably, a *peachick*.

The peacock is part of the pheasant family and native to Asia. The peacock is the national bird of India. It is also found in Africa.

\*The design and the pattern of color in the bird's feathers will vary across the different species of peafowl and between the two sexes. Only male peafowls have ornamental feathers. It takes approximately two years for a male peacock to mature to full feather. Peacocks shed their train every year after mating season. The feathers then grow back every year.