



A DAY IN THE ARTS

Making art accessible to all

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ADA0037

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PAINTING WITH ACRYLICS OFFERS A GREAT VARIETY!

By Anna Meenaghan

Acrylic paint is a wonderful mix of synthetic resins with the pigments. These are very widely used as they can be diluted and used for many types of surfaces. The bonus being that they dry reasonably quickly. As paints go, they are very flexible as you can use them as you would water colours or oils, directly from the tube making them very popular.

Using them from the tube they appear a bit creamy, as the paint is nice and thick. However, they are also pretty fluid if you water them down and they appear translucent. You can also create many different effects if you use other acrylic mediums with the paint. It is ideal for artists, they love it, because it is so quick to dry.

In the 1960's it was very popular with Pop Artists, mainly because of the paints per-

manence and vibrancy of colour. So handy as you can use them as you would oils, and they are also used widely today.

The other advantage, of course, when you work with them, is you have good intense colour, they are waterproof and you find the paint does not seem to yellow. Whatever you paint on, do make sure that you have first applied an acrylic primer to it. Then the paint should be fine on any number of surfaces.

Only exception being, if they tend to be a bit oily.

Try painting on canvas, card, paper or even hardboard. It can be primed first, then painted on, in a short space of time. To

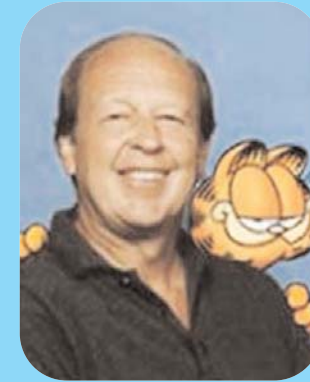
change the actual textures achieved, try adding different mediums to your paints on the palette. Otherwise you may come to the realization that



WORD OF THE DAY

ACRYLICS

Acrylic paint is fast-drying paint containing pigment suspended in an acrylic polymer emulsion. Acrylic paints can be diluted with water, but become water-resistant when dry.



“I get to do something I love to do for a living and I don't have to do anything else, which is great.” -
Cartoonist **Jim Davis**

ART AEROBICS

Practice you drawing skills

Use oils or acrylics to paint a box of chocolates. Twenty minutes. 📧

your texture seems to be even and flat.

David Hockney, I recall, I am sure used to use the paints like oils.

Many comic strips, advertisements, were produced by using acrylics. Van Gogh himself obviously used his paint very thickly from the tube.

If you want to start with a basic palette, you do not really need many colour shades. As you can always mix them to create other colours. A few here, I suggest, should suffice. You may choose your own shade of the colour named, but basically you will need a black, white, red, yellow, blue and probably a dark green.

This paint is used in many fields as it is so very adaptable, so it is not surprising so much of it is sold in our art shops. It is also important to remember to always clean your brushes after use.

Paintings are everywhere today, in your bank, offices, dentist etc. We love them in our homes too. At the present time abstracts are very, very popular

and most of these are done with acrylics.

They work well for collages too and so many types of different art work.

It is not surprising therefore that they are truly popular with all ranges of artists, from beginner to professional.

No wonder so many abstracts are out there, as the paint satisfies artists the world over! ➤

This "Guide" has been brought to you by Anna Meenaghan, a contemporary artist, who has been involved in the arts all of her life. As a contemporary painter she has experienced a lot of "mishaps" herself and is now freely giving advice to newcomers to the world of art by writing articles on various subjects. Comment by Michael Bruckner.

Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here are three additional sites where you can learn more about painting with acrylics.
<http://tinyurl.com/3aopvy>
<http://tinyurl.com/c32jch>
<http://tinyurl.com/c5rpgc>



ART NEWS

A WEEK IN PROVENCE

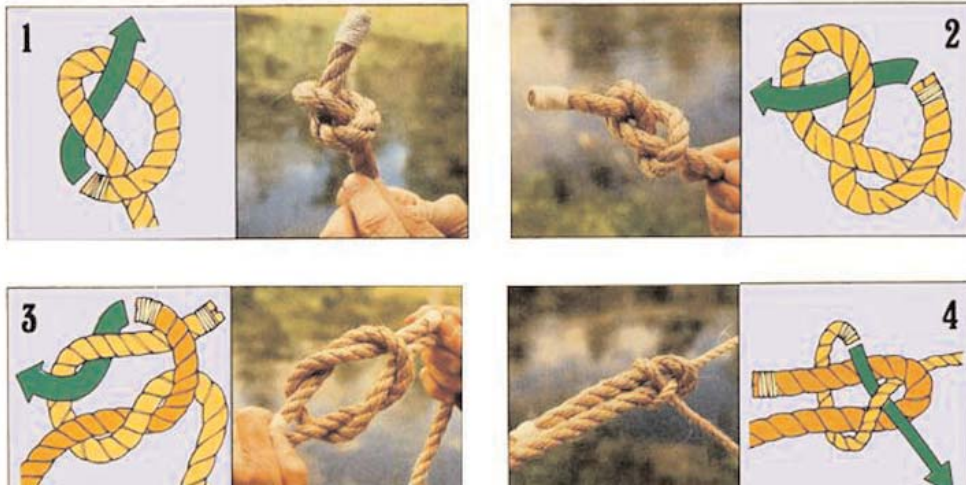
Imagine yourself painting in the beautiful quaint village of Bonnieux, Provence and the surrounding countryside then returning at the end of the day to your charming French country farmhouse. Feel stirred by the same views that inspired the great French Impressionist! This area is filled with ancient hilltop villages overlooking cherry orchards, lavender fields, poppies and vineyards. These workshop is open to painters of all levels. Oil paint is recommended, but watercolor is acceptable. Paint 6 of the 7 days, 3 to 4 hours a day! Instructor, Lori McNeer: <http://tinyurl.com/chkyrk> E-mail: lori@lorimcnee.com

PHOTOSHOP CHALLENGE

The **Focal Press Photoshop Challenge** is open to everyone -- it's simple and free to enter. Simply register and upload your image! You can also vote on images and forward this contest to your friends so they can vote. The focus for April is Commercial Photoshop. <http://tinyurl.com/ch4ezx>

HEAVEN ON EARTH: MANUSCRIPT ILLUMINATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Rare medieval manuscript illuminations, last exhibited in 1975, are now on view in a stunning installation, **Heaven on Earth: Manuscript Illuminations from the National Gallery of Art**. This exhibition offers the first in-depth look at these works of art, texts laboriously inscribed by hand on carefully prepared parchment made from the skin of sheep or calves. Our Web feature offers a slideshow of images from these luxurious books dating from the 12th to the 16th century. www.nga.gov/exhibitions/heavenearthinfo.htm



rative arts are often viewed in opposition to one another, the former as a fine art created for aesthetic purposes and the latter created as an applied art for functional purpose. **Taking Shape: Finding Sculpture in the Decorative Arts** challenges the con-

ventional distinctions between the two by bringing together a range of "decorative" objects rarely considered within the context of sculptural practice-drawing attention to their astonishing sculptural inventiveness. On view at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, March 31 through July 5, 2009, *Taking Shape* brings together sculpture and furniture from the collections of Temple Newsam (England) and the Getty Museum, with a focus on 17th- and 18th- century Baroque and Rococo objects made in England, France, and Italy. ➤

ALL TIED UP IN KNOTS

Not sure how to tie this in with art but **Mother Earth News** has a great article on tying various knots here: <http://tinyurl.com/2nxz3y> (Image above from *Mother Earth News*)

WATERCOLOR HELP

Watercolor Artist Magazine is offering a free step-by-step watercolor tutorial featuring author and artist Jeanne Dobie titled "Reflection of Sunlight". You can view it here: <http://tinyurl.com/dyrmt5>

FOOD AS ART

The Telegraph has a delightful photo essay on **Carl Warner's** foodscapes. The photographer uses various foods to design a landscape, such as broccoli trees and sourdough mountains. You really need to see them to appreciate them. <http://tinyurl.com/5sukx8> His website: <http://www.carlwarner.com>

TAKING SHAPE AT THE GETTY

The disciplines of sculpture and deco-



Foodscape by Carl Warner