

Abstract Expressionist Painting in Acrylic, Water Soluble Oil or Mixed Media

Abstract painting is art that does not attempt to render reality but uses shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.

In this fun, energetic course, you will learn a different strategy each week working on two paintings per week. Abstract Expressionist painting is fun for new and seasoned artists alike .

You will paint 'in the moment' - no plans or expectations - enjoying the dance of shape, texture and colour and relying on your 'gut' for inspiration. It's spontaneous, intuitive and fun and requires a spirit of risk.. Abstract Expressionism is always surprising. Over time Abstract Expressionist artists find their own style - much like their own handwriting or voice. This course will set you on that journey.

Week One: Two 12" x 12"

Mark Making
Black and White
Expression & Direction

Week Two: One 12" x 12", One 16" x 20",

'Stained Glass'
Tissue Paper and Acrylic Medium
Layering Transparency

Week Three Two 12" x 12" or larger but no bigger than 18" x 24"

Charcoal Drawing
Finding Structure
Composition

Week Four Two 16" x 20", Two 18" x 24" or one of each

Viewfinder Abstract
Mother Colour
Creating Unity

Materials

On the first week bring a good quality black and a good quality white acrylic paint,, a 12" x 12" canvas or board, crayons, pencils and markers, and several brushes in different sizes. You' need one brush at least 1" wide.

Expect to spend about \$100 on materials. You need quality paints to be successful but you can skip on colours, brushes and substrates.

Don't buy everything for the first week. We will talk about materials for the most successful results..Buying with a partner for this course can work well, especially if you're just trying in out..

To Paint on you can use board, mounted paper or canvas . See dimensions for each week.

General Note About Paints

Good quality Acrylics Paints. Golden, Tri-Art, Artist's Loft Academic or Professional grade, Windsor Newton or Amsterdam in 4 fl oz tubes minimum. Look at whether its transparent or opaque. Don't get them all the same. You don't need heavy body paint but you can use it if you like.

Liquitex can be problematic as it often contains too much medium relative to pigment, (too slippery - but you can mix a few tubes in with better brands

CraftSmart won't work well for this - too chalky (too much filler; impure pigment) BUT its black and white work OK as mixers.

Fluid paints can work ,depending on the effect you are after. Choose DecoArt Americana 16 fl oz in the bigger bottles. Don't buy chalk paint or metallics for now.

Brushes

You can save on brushes. You do not need special or expensive brushes for painting abstractly with acrylic paint. Just use whatever you can find, but on the bigger side. I buy dollar store brush packs in the craft section as well as house painting brushes from the hardware section. Get some of both.

Substrates

For the first week you need 2 X 12" x 12" canvas or board.

We will talk more about substrates on the first week.

Mediums:

Optional: Gesso, Acrylic Medium, Tap