

Art Materials for Painting Yourself Free!



A hard rubber brayer is a great painting tool. Look for it in the printmaking section of your art store, or on line. You can get one for under \$10.

High Flow paint with the pointy tops, is made by Golden Paints. I dilute this with water in a small spray bottle to make a color spritz. High Flow can be found in most art stores or you can Google for it.

Small plastic spray bottles can be found in the travel-size section of Target, Walmart or the Dollar Store.

Fluid Acrylics come in flat topped bottles. Fluids are less pigmented than the very intense High Flow paints, but have much more pigment per binder than heavy body paint (in tubes). I use 1 Oz. bottles for travel, however you can buy larger. Fluid acrylic paint is manufactured by several companies.

Plastic cards are great tools for applying and scraping paint. (If you use your plastic credit cards, you will avoid big bills!)

I abuse my brushes! I buy the cheap chip brushes at the hardware store, and also have a few nicer but inexpensive brushes for more controlled strokes.

Substrates = Painting Surfaces

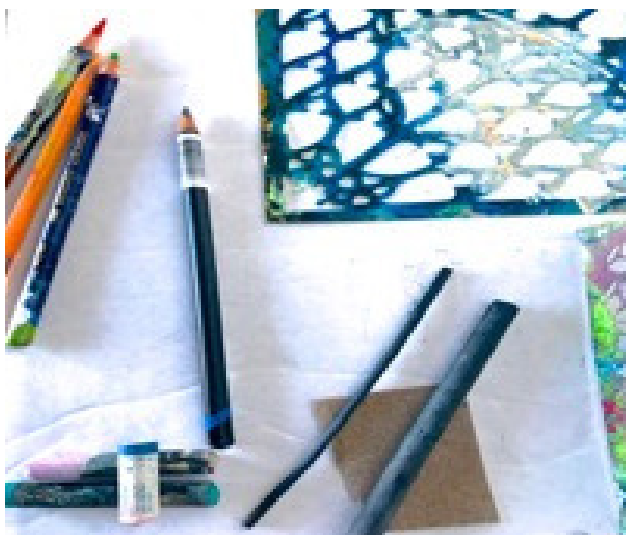


I mainly use 3 substrates: 22x30 sheets of 140lb watercolor paper which can be torn into smaller pieces, stretched canvases, or cradled wood panels. I buy most of my canvases from Jerrysartarama.com and most of my cradled panels and watercolor paper from CheapJoe.com.

I paint on Cheap Joe's $\frac{3}{4}$ " Prime Really Good Cradled Painting Panels. These panels are unprimed and while the manufacturer recommends priming them, I use them unprimed. Painting on naked wood is great fun! (I have been painting on unprimed wood for about 17 years without negative consequences.)

You can get the above substrates from Michael's, Hobby Lobby or other physical art stores. I watch for discounts and coupons or I purchase online.

Mark Makers!



Mark Makers! • Inktense Pencils by Derwent are a favorite because they melt in water and the color is very intense. For the painting exercises, any colored pencil is fine.

A graphite (regular) pencil is used in most of the exercises. The softer the lead (the B pencils) the darker the mark, and the harder the lead (H pencils) the more it will emboss the surface.

Stencils are handy for texture and pattern. I buy them at Michael's or from Stencil Girl. (stencilgirlproducts.com) There are many other online places to get them. Want a tree stencil? Just Google "tree stencil for art".

Oil Pastels are like crayons, but with oil rather than a wax binder. They go on the surface like lipstick and act like a resist to the water media. You can sometimes buy them individually in an art store, or you can purchase a small set.

Charcoal is great for drawing, to smear and to make dark crumbs. I like the long sticks of vine charcoal or any soft charcoal. It can be purchased in small amounts or as a single stick.

Gels and Other Good Stuff!



The Varnish I use when I think I'm finished, is Golden Polymer Varnish, in Matte, Satin or Gloss. (Many times I paint on top of the varnish and then re-varnish.) A soft brush will help you avoid brush marks.

I use Isopropyl Alcohol to scrub out paint, to drop into wet paint or to get paint out of my clothing. Alcohol is a solvent for acrylic paint.

Gloves in a Bottle is a product to protect your hands. It helps, but if you do not wear disposable latex gloves and are messy like me, you will still have paint under your nails. I bought it on amazon.

Regular Gel Medium in gloss, satin or matte is what I use for creating texture and for gluing collage materials. I have no sheen preference because I varnish when the art is finished with the surface quality I desire. (For gluing papers, Polymer Medium can also be used.)

Because I use lots of white, I prefer buying gesso instead of white paint. It is cheaper and more opaque. I buy it by the gallon for the studio.

More Favorite Things!



To see the colors and layers of my painting more clearly, I brush on a barrier coat. For this I use **Polycrylic** from the hardware store, or Soft Gel that has been diluted 50% with water. Often I paint over this sealed surface, and because it is sealed, I can then rip through the new layer with alcohol and reveal the paint underneath.

Lamin-All is a product often used by photographers. Lamin-All can be purchased online. I use it to glue paintings on paper to a panel, or to a stretched canvas. It's really sticky and a bit challenging to work with, but it stays tacky long enough to coat the back of the entire painting and put it into place on top of another substrate. You can cover the glued art with parchment paper and iron it to get maximum adherence.

NOTE: Acrylic paint is plastic, the gels are plastic, the varnishes are plastic...this is why all these materials are compatible. The variety of gels and polymer mediums are basically the same material, but with different weights, viscosity and thicknesses.