

Glossary

- **Alcohol Lift:** using rubbing alcohol or your vodka, to remove acrylic paint from the surface of your composition, or to clean up your clothing, floor, etc.
- **Alcohol Spatter:** splashing some alcohol into an acrylic wash to get a circular blooming texture.
- **Ambient or Quiet Conversation:** achieved when shapes, lines, values and textures are similar to each other and do not demand much visual attention.
- **Analogous Colors:** colors next to each other on the color wheel.
- **Anomaly:** is an element that stands out within an established predictability. Might be a focal point.
- **Active areas:** those areas which demand your visual attention.
- **Brayer:** small hand-held roller for printing or painting.
- **Brayer Drawing:** using just the edge of the brayer to make lines.
- **Cast Shadow Effect:** the illusion of a shape casting a shadow, created by shading below a shape.
- **Charcoal Crumbs:** created from sanding charcoal onto the surface of your composition. Doing this in a wet area will adhere it. To this and other charcoal marks from smearing, spray it with a fixative (hairspray).
- **Collage:** to glue.
- **Colored Spritz:** a small spray bottle filled with diluted acrylic or ink, that can be sprayed for accents. (Golden High Flow paint works perfectly.)
- **Colored Neutral:** a low chroma (dull) color that has a color identity. You can look at the greyish hue and determine if it leans toward orange, blue, green, etc. (A colored neutral is more interesting than a grey made from black and white.)
- **Complementary Colors:** The colors across from each other on the color wheel. When next to each other at full intensity they create excitement, when mixed together they neutralize each other.
- **Connecting Shapes:** soften edges, make the values similar, have something transparent overlap them, or use another device to make them visually join together.
- **Continuous Cursive Writing:** free-flowing cursive where the words are connected without separation. When you do several lines on top of each other, this writing becomes an interesting pattern.
- **Contour Line Drawing:** drawing the edges of shapes, and when you hold the drawing implement down and do not pick it up, it is continuous contour line drawing.
- **Dangling Sleeve:** dipping the corner of paper towel into paint and then vertically dangling it over the composition.
- **Double Loading:** using 2 colors side by side on your brush, paper towel or brayer. (Can also triple load, quad load, etc.)



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- **Dramatic Composition:** (also referred to as a loud conversation): contains high visual impact, as with bright colors and big shapes of strong value differences.
- **Dry Brush Drag:** using a dry or damp (not water-filled) brush loaded with paint that also isn't very fluid, dragging it across the substrate to produce dry rough marks.
- **Edgy Edges:** random, soft, hard, rough, or smeared edges that appear "edgy" because they are a contrast to the dominate kind of edge.
- **Embossing the Substrate:** adding gels, mediums, or other material that creates a raised surface you can feel.
- **Expansive shapes:** shapes that extend beyond the borders of the compositional space.
- **Fogging:** applying white paint and then scrubbing until it is just a translucent white film.
- **Gel Textures:** gel thick enough to hold a shape is smeared, wiped or brushed into a stencil, scribed into, or in somehow texturized.
- **Glaze:** a thin layer of transparent color that modifies the underneath layer, sometimes with mediums to thin the paint.
- **Gradation:** a gradual change of hue, value, texture, chroma, direction, temperature, or any other visual quality.
- **Grid:** predetermined linear structure on the substrate.
- **Halation:** a light or bright halo of light or bright color around a shape or along an edge of value contrast.
- **High Chroma:** the brightest hues. Those which have not been in any way neutralized.
- **Impasto Swipe:** loading a plastic card or palette knife with thick paint or colored gel and swiping it across the composition.
- **Isolation Coat:** sealing a layer of paint with gels, mediums or varnish so that layer will be protected. If you paint over the isolation (or barrier coat) you can scrub back down to reveal it again.
- **Lost and Found Edges:** painting so that an edge is created and fading the paint away so that there isn't an edge on the other side.
- **Loud Conversation:** bold shapes, lines, colors and values that demand attention because of their size, chroma or value contrast.
- **Metaphor:** something used to represent an idea.
- **Milky Wash:** a thin wash (plenty of water) with white and a small amount of color added, creating a mixture similar to skim milk.
- **Negative Shape Painting:** painting around or behind shapes in order to emphasize or reveal them. (Painting the spaces inside and around the donut to reveal the donut.)
- **Neutral:** a greyed down hue made from mixing complements, black and white, or all the primaries together.



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- **Newspaper Stencil:** cutting or tearing newspaper to protect the substrate while spraying, rolling, painting or otherwise changing the unprotected areas.
- **Opaque:** paint that completely covers what is underneath it.
- **Opaque Editing:** painting out portions of your composition with opaque paint in order to make other areas more significant.
- **Overlapping:** creating the illusion of depth on the 2-d picture plane by putting shapes, lines, washes, or colors partially over each other.
- **Palette Printing:** pressing your wet palette into your composition. (Yikes, you never know what you will get!) Can also put substrate face down into your palette.
- **Paper Lift and Print:** laying paper into a wet area, picking up some of the paint. You can then print with the paint covered paper.
- **Paper (Crumpled) Lift and Print:** take newspaper and crumple into wet paint, lifting out a texture, then print with the crumpled paper.
- **Pentimento:** the barely visible memory of what is underneath.
- **Pregnant Shapes:** a smaller shape inside a bigger shape.
- **Psychological Color:** using color for emotional impact.
- **Psychological Space:** emotional response to a design based on the placement of the art elements.
- **Rotating the Substrate:** turning the composition 90 or 180 degrees during the art process to produce a more imaginative and balanced design.
- **Scumbling:** dry paint applied with a brush or paper towel without water and rubbing it until translucent. It is a soft veil through which you can see what is beneath.
- **Shade:** a color with black added.
- **Shadowing:** following a friend home....no wait.... softly shading below a shape so it appears to float, or darkening a portion of a shape to give a 3-d effect.
- **Shapus Interruptus:** manipulating a shape by disruption. Scraping, wiping, or gluing though it, etc.
- **Smeary Effects:** smearing with a rag to imply energy, movement, softness or depth.
- **Staining:** applying a thin color to the substrate to add color or value.
- **Stamping:** putting paint on something and printing it.
- **Stenciling:** covering areas to create a pattern when paint, alcohol, charcoal, etc. is added.
- **Subpersonality:** a part of you with identifiable characteristics.
- **Substrate:** the surface you paint on.
- **Subtractive Methods:** removing materials from the substrate by wiping out, sanding, erasing or pulling off collaged materials.
- **Symbols:** universal or personal image that represent a significant idea.
- **Tint:** a color with white added (makes a pastel hue).
- **Tone:** a color with gray (black and white) added.
- **Toning the Substrate:** adding color or value to the painting surface before starting the painting.



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- **Translucent:** a color that is partially transparent. You see some of what is beneath.
- **Transparent:** a thin see-through color.
- **Underpants:** the first layers of a composition. (They may get covered or partially covered unless they are really attractive.)
- **Veil:** to partially obscure with a translucent covering, or a pattern.
- **Wash:** paint with enough water added to make it transparent.
- **Wet into Wet:** dropping wet paint into an already wet area so that the water will move the paint into a pattern or soft edged fusions.