

Acrylic Painting McCray's Way

Helpful hints when using acrylic paint

I CAN ALWAYS GET MORE PAINT!

Please don't load your palette with the colors of the rainbow that you won't be using during the class period. **Limit your paint palette.** It is best to focus on a smaller number of colors at a time since the acrylic paint dries quickly. And, of course, you can always get more paint if you need it.

BLOCKING IN will allow you to create changes as you go. We are going to create paintings without the use of a pencil. We will sketch with paint and continue to build by creating areas of color (blocking in). These paintings will not be paint by numbers or fill in the spaces. I am going to ask that you not be limited to a photographic image and that you consider modifying the painting as you work, embracing what may happen with the application of the paint. This project is not about duplicating photographs, it is about creating an expression in paint using imagery. You are not a machine.

GLAZING IS THE KEY to a great acrylic painting!

Build your painting in layers, using many thin layer thin layers of acrylic paint.

USE WATER ... or acrylic medium as you are working to create your thin layers of paint. If you are creating a painting in my class, you must have water as you work.

BUILD YOUR PAINTING from **dark to light, general to specific, background to foreground.**

- 1 - Start by covering your image with a solid low value color.
- 2 - Add a medium value color to work on the placement of elements.
- 3 – Create areas of color variables with a minimum color palette.

HIGHLIGHTS AND DETAILS ARE ALWAYS LAST.

CLEAN YOUR BRUSHES AND PALETTE!

Be sure you return brushes to their containers fully cleaned and bristle sides up. If you can see color coming from the bristles after you wash them they are not clean. Please be the responsible and considerate students of the class and protect the materials for future students.

Random suggestion concerning paint color: Stay away from using solid unmixed black as it is an extremely flat color. Mix another color (blue or red?) with black to create a richer black color.