



Painting in Acrylics. (Starter sheet one)

Mediums

There are several mediums for use with acrylics. These aid the use of paint in different ways. Acrylics are often combined with other painting mediums such as ink or watercolour, but should not be combined with any oil based medium.

Gloss medium: Good for glazes. Makes paint more transparent.

Matt medium: Same as gloss only reflects light differently.

Gel medium: For impasto and textured painting.

Texture paste: Also for impasto and textured painting, but has a thicker consistency.

Retarding medium: Slows the drying time.

Tips

- 1 The more water mixed with acrylics, the longer they will take to dry.
- 2 Always wet the brush first, except when scumbling when you should use an old dry brush with fairly stiff bristles.
- 3 The only colours needed to get started are the three primaries, (red, blue and yellow) White definitely, but I would advise using black with caution. Better to make your own up. Add more colours as you discover which ones you will use most to save time in mixing them up. Unlike watercolours you can work dark to light.

Useful tools:

Brushes (obviously), toothbrush, sticks or twigs, pieces of plastic such as cut up bank or store cards no longer needed and palette knives.

All paintings are done in layers.

Typical layers for acrylic painting are:

Support or ground, usually canvas, but could be any variety of surfaces even metal with a good tooth.

Primer (Gesso or acrylic white) usually two or three coats

Wash or tone drawing

Blocking in main areas of colour

Possible final colour but also could be: scumble, impasto, glazes.

Varnish if required, but not always necessary for acrylic paintings.

So an acrylic painting could have at least nine layers

