

TAKE AND MAKE KITS

Colorful Abstract Painting



Create a Colorful Abstract Painting

The supplies included in this kit are:

- Birch panel (24x12)
- Craft acrylic paint in a variety of color

You'll need these items to start (some optional)

- Old credit card
- Baby wipes
- Wax paper or old cookie sheet (for palette)
- Work apron

Program

1. We're going to use some craft store paint in a variety of colors, and our tool for applying the paint is not going to be a paint brush like you might think. It's actually going to be a credit card. In this process, it's going to be your whole body working.
2. In addition to your craft paint, you'll need a couple of credit cards. You can use your some old gift cards. Baby wipes are handy to have on hand. Something as a palette. You can use an old cookie sheet. I'm just using wax paper. Once you have everything, find a space that you can work in. You can put this on top of your kitchen table if it fits. You can also work in your driveway or on the floor.
3. You want to set up your workspace so that when you're applying your paint, you're dragging from top to bottom toward you, this is the motion we're going to be using. So if that means that your piece needs to be able to move or you need to be able to move around it, you just need to pick one and that's fine.

4. In general I like to use a rule of thumb with starting with my lightest color and then working to my mediums and then into my darks but then I'll probably go back and assess everything as I'll be doing along the way and I might go back and add more light color.
5. Just have to pick a place and start, this is going to be the most intimidating to make that first mark, but just go for it, you're going to respond to what you lay down. I would only say don't start right in the center, pick something left of center, right of center, pick something on an edge until you feel comfortable and see how the colors are working.
6. To apply the paint, you're just going to press and drag. Go over the same spot until most of the paint is off.
7. And you can see because we're using an unfinished panel that in some places the paint acts almost like a stain, which is nice I like this clean wood grain showing through I think that's pretty.
8. The other thing that's going to keep this from looking totally chaotic is we're relying on the credit card itself which is about two and a half inches wide to give us a fairly clean edge when we drag down in that stroke. And you want to make sure that those are fairly upright at a 90 degree angle.
9. You can draw down on top of your previous color, depends on how you want to maintain the shape.
10. You could leave some of the natural wood showing through.
11. Let's work on it so that it's upside down. Really, this is abstract, so it may not have an orientation yet. This may allow you to see something that you couldn't see when it was the other way around when you were working on it. Really walk around your piece. I mean, don't be afraid to move things up. It doesn't have to be perfect in one spot, and if you can't reach it, then rotate.
12. Add more paint somewhere it you need to. You may have heard that artists always do things in odd numbers, which is actually pretty true. For whatever reason, three is always a good number. Five is a good number.
13. You can put out the exact same colors, work from the exact same palette, and on two different days you can make two totally different paintings depending on the proportions that you use, the combinations of colors, how you use those colors.
14. Just put your colors out on the palette and respond to what you're working on. Just gravitate toward the colors you would naturally have and in no time you'll have a really dramatic eye-catching piece that'll be the focal point of any room.

To view the full instructions, go to our Database Creativebug with your library card.

<https://www.creativebug.com/classseries/single/create-a-colorful-abstract-painting>

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- <https://www.creativebug.com/classseries/single/31-creative-prompts-from-modern-and-contemporary-artists>
- <https://www.creativebug.com/classseries/single/daily-abstract-painting-prompts-working-collaboratively>

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