



MIXED MEDIA SUPPLIES AND STEPS

All the following techniques and supplies are adaptable to any size of mixed media you wish to create.

Painting Backgrounds

- Brayer
- Gelli Plate
- Choice of acrylic paints
- Mark-making/found objects (ex., a comb, toilet paper roll, corrugated cardboard)
- Water Color Paper

Squeeze a small amount of acrylic paint onto a piece of watercolor paper. Spread the paint with the brayer, moving it in different directions. After cleaning the brayer, add another paint color onto a paper plate, roll the brayer in the paint getting good coverage, and apply over the first layer of paint. With the Gelli plate, apply a thin layer of acrylic paint but enough to cover the entire plate. Use mark-making tools or found objects, create a composition. Draw lines, add more paint if desired. Experiment! When happy with the design, press the water color paper onto the image, pressing hard to make a good impression.

Mediums

- Molding Paste, spreader (palette knife)
- Stamp with basic design (the focus is on creating texture, not a lot of detail)
- Water Color Paper
- Acrylic Paint

Cover the water color paper in a thin, smooth layer of molding paste. Stamp the image on the wet paste, moving randomly or in a consistent pattern. Remember to immediately clean the stamp! Let the paste dry completely. Once dry, sponge or rub over the stamped paste. No need to fill in all the areas with paint; use your eye to gauge the coverage.

Mediums (cont.)

- Heavy Gel Gloss, spreader (palette knife, old credit or gift card)
- Acrylic Paint
- Crayola Crayons (3-4 colors)
- Water color paper
- Rubber scraper or same card used to spread the medium

Randomly color the water color paper in vertical, horizontal, or overall placement. Mix heavy gel gloss with acrylic paint and spread a layer of the medium smoothly on the paper over the crayon colors you laid down. Using the tip of a rubber scraper, “carve” out your design (our demonstration was random handwriting). Keep a paper towel handy to wipe off the scraper during the process and allow for precise shapes and letters. It will take a couple hours for the medium to dry completely, leaving a little while longer to play with your design. Even after it dries, you can add more paint.

Found and Repurposed Materials

- Piece of corrugated cardboard from a box.
- Acrylic paint
- Stencils, pens or markers

After peeling the back of cardboard away to expose the corrugated texture, paint with acrylic paint and let dry. Use markers or paint and stencils to make marks on the cardboard.

Playing With Paper

Begin creating your own mixed media stash by saving paper scraps, bits and pieces of art projects gone wrong (water color, stamping), going through outdated magazines and clipping meaningful words (interesting typography!) and pictures, interesting mailers, etc. Select items that fit a color scheme for a harmonious combination. With a soft acrylic brush and a light application of Mod Podge, press torn pieces together in a composition. You can decide whether to apply a top coat of Mod Podge or add another dimension with stamps or stencils.

Use transparent papers—like tissue paper, sewing patterns, single layers of paper napkins, used dryer sheets—anything that’s see-through. Adhere the papers with Mod Podge. Once dry, apply a light wash of acrylic paint with your finger to make the textures pop.

Adding Texture

Actual physical pieces of—

- Leaves
- Seeds
- Cheesecloth
- Drywall tape
- Screen
- Lace
- Anything that has substance and an interesting texture
- Water Color Paper, Cardboard, Canvas

Apply a thick coat of clear gesso to the surface of your substrate. Remember to choose something very sturdy because there will be added weight from all the found objects. Lay the elements where you want them—you have a brief time to change them around before the gesso starts to set. Apply another coat of clear gesso over the design. You can always apply additional coats to build up the thickness of the piece.