

Bonny Roberts, A.F.C.A.

"Getting Started on Abstracts"

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I have had so many people come up to me and say that they would like to paint abstract but don't know where to begin. That's what this course is all about. In previous classes I've had participants say how freeing it is to paint and just have fun without worrying about some of the more trying things like perspective, etc. **HOWEVER**, composition, colour and all the other elements are equally important!

I like to use all kinds of natural substances in my work as long as said substance is random in colour and shape and preferably from Nature, i.e. rock, bark, etc.

For a 3-day course I would like to follow the outline below:

Day 1: I shall talk a "tiny" bit about colour and choosing an appropriate colour scheme. I use only the 3 primary colours, the 3 "sub-primary" colours, plus white. I will discuss how these are the only necessary pigments for landscape or abstract. For abstract, however, I do include some of the "Bling" colours such as the interference and irridescient colours and sometimes Gold Leaf.

For this course I would like all of you to tackle 2 abstracts, one without using any collage, strictly using Gel for texture and the colours included in the supply list and the second you can mount whatever you choose. Be aware that if the substance you want to collage is at all heavy it must be on wood rather than canvas. The reason I want you to do one with strictly paint and gel texture as well as one with collage is that I have found people tend to rely on the collaged substances as an excuse to avoid figuring out correct composition, etc.

On the first day we will prepare both canvases so that they can dry overnight and we can start both on the following day.

Day 2 & 3: We shall work on both canvases and, hopefully, bring both to completion by the end of the 3rd day.

Cont'd.....2

Supplies:

2 Canvases (not too small please.)

Paints: Primary Colours (Golden Brand)
 "Quinacridone Magenta"
 "Phthalo Blue"
 "Hansa Yellow Mdm."
 Sub-Primary Colours (Golden Brand)
 "Paynes Gray"
 "Quinacridone Crimson"
 "Nickel Azo Yellow"

White

I have been switching to all fluid acrylics as they seem to work better. However, if you already have the solid ones they will certainly do.

As we are doing abstract, it would be fun to include some of the Interference and irridescent colours and maybe even some gold Leaf.

Mediums: 1. "Matte Medium" OR "Gac 500" (also "Golden") (I prefer Gac 500)
 2. Regular "Gel" Gloss (large bucket if you plan on mounting rocks!)
 3. "Flow Release" plus container in which to mix it with water (make sure you read directions, otherwise it will take till infinity to dry!! Trust me on this as several of my past students are still waiting. You can have it all ready mixed and ready to go.
 4. 99% Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol (cheap and available at Wal Mart) & Eye dropper or pipette. Put it in a spray bottle.
 5. "Self-Levelling Clear Gel" (Golden)

An assortment of palette knives, brushes, etc. plus all the usual "stuff". Please include a few large and small flat angle brushes.

At least one large old towel to work on.

Cont'd.....3