

MINI ABSTRACT PAINTINGS

By Roxanne Coble

Project Description:

Using miniature canvases (that are 3x3 inches or smaller in size) this project takes you through a quick layering technique to create a miniature abstract work of art. With an initial layer created by curated ephemera, a second layer is then comprised of two pieces of white tissue paper. Working in a 'top to bottom' method, the tissue paper helps to create an illusion that there are more layers on the canvas than there actually is! With the tissue paper layers complete, the mini canvas is then finished with acrylic paint and pen details.

Materials:

- Mini canvas or mini canvas board (3x3 inches in size or smaller)
- Acrylic paint in a variety of colors
- Heavy body acrylic paint in white & black
- Smaller detail paintbrush for paint, and another paintbrush for the gel medium
- Small sized ephemera (paper scraps, magazine cut outs, etc.)
- Tissue paper in white or that is a very light color! White tissue paper with gold flecks or details are especially great for this project!
- Scissors
- Matte gel medium
- Gel pens for detailing - white or gold/bronze are ideal
- Black detail pen – something like a pitt pen, stabilo, or micron will work

Instructions:

- 1.) Begin by selecting the ephemera that you will apply to your canvas as a first layer. You are going to want to choose brighter colored ephemera of a similar color family – this will help you create the ‘layered look’ when we go to put the white tissue paper on top later on.
- 2.) Adhere your ephemera to your mini canvas using gel medium and a paintbrush. Be sure to cover the entire surface of your mini canvas with ephemera.
- 3.) Once your ephemera layer is dry, select your white (or light colored) tissue paper. White tissue paper with gold flecks or details makes for an especially fun detail! Decide the direction of your mini canvas (essentially what is the top and bottom of your mini painting). For the first layer of tissue paper, it should be adhered to the top edge and cover half of your mini canvas. The second tissue layer will start from the top as well, but cut it shorter than the first piece you glued down. In changing up the size of your tissue paper, you’re allowing your ephemera to peek through in different ways.
- 4.) Working again from the top to bottom, apply some acrylic paint to your mini canvas. Apply your paint in blobs, drips, and splatters. A helpful tip when applying your paint – choose colors that you see in your ephemera! It will help you have a more cohesive looking piece of art.
- 5.) Using heavy body white acrylic paint, add a pattern. While this is drying, you can paint the outside edges of your canvas with heavy body black acrylic paint. If you don’t have heavy body acrylic, you can use regular acrylic paint – but you just might have to do a couple of extra layers!
- 6.) Finish your mini canvas with details in gel pen, a fine point black pen, or any other pens you might already have! Details can include small dots, lines, extra patterns, or outlining your paint. At this point, your mini canvas is complete – so you can leave it as is, or put smaller painted illustrations on top if you wanted to!

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