



Bride Russian Beauty by Kandinsky 1903

(This is the style and inspiration piece of the type of painting we will do in a simplistic way)

Here is a sample of my work using this technique on tar paper



From Kandinsky to Tar Paper Folk Art!

Kandinsky is my all time favorite artist. His use of geometry, color palette, and lyrical movement connect with how my brain is hard wired and I adore his entire body of work. From early on in his painting career, I have been drawn more so to his style using a black bold outline and opaque color. As I learned more about his work, I chose to find a simplistic way to capture what I loved about it and tar paper painting fit the bill.

Tar paper is a surface that is easy to draw and paint on using chalk and opaque acrylic. The chalk is forgiving, can be wiped away and redrawn, and when sealed with varnish, disappears to create a bold, black outline around the shapes in the painting. Below have broken down the steps and directions and will add a summary at the end.

(I will bring all images and info on the disk with me to use for marketing. We will paint a similar piece as this but use a singular figure, not a double.)

First Marks - Drawing the Figure In Chalk

Drawing on tar paper with white chalk is very similar to drawing a crayon page outline. The goal is to create simple shapes using any subject matter. We will draw a folk art figure using circles, squares, stripes, and lines. The goal of this technique is to draw with the chalk, but paint up to but not on the chalk. Larger shapes work best with smaller detail inside or around them.

Adding The Paint – What makes this technique successful is the use of opaque acrylic paint. Transparent colors won't work because of the black ground, but any color plus white (which creates a tint), works amazing. House paint samples or basic craft acrylics work well, as well as higher grade acrylics with titanium white or gesso added in. I use synthetic acrylic brushes in various sizes to paint the first layers around the chalk lines with care not to paint over the chalk lines. If I want to emphasize form instead of simple shapes, I choose a light source and alter my values.

Varnish Coat – Once the acrylic is dry, I paint a coat of water based varnish (polycrylic) over the entire painting. The varnish erases the chalk line and the bold, black line appears to enhance the shapes and figures. If I want to 'antique' the painting, I use oil base polyurethane which activates the tar and gives the entire painting an aged patina.

Tar paper painting, when sealed, can be hung unframed, mounted on board, or framed under glass.

Supplies –

15# tar paper

White Chalk

Sponge

Synthetic brushes for Acrylic (Small, Medium, and Wide Flats)

Acrylic Paints or House Paint Samples

Titanium White Acrylic or White Gesso

Polycrylic (water based varnish) or Oil Based Polyurethane