

Acrylic Painting Technique Definitions

Sponge Painting - Use a sponge as the tool to apply paint directly to a canvas to make a rough, inconsistent texture.

Spraying and Spattering - Use a toothbrush or other spraying device to apply paint to a canvas to make a fine texture.

Sgraffitto - Paint an area of the canvas, then use a fine, blunt tool to scrape off lines into the wet paint thereby revealing the background underneath.

Stenciling/Masking - Use tape or cut an image or shape out of a piece of paper or plastic. The tape, paper, or plastic would be applied to the canvas, then apply paint over it. When completed, the stencil or tape would be lifted to reveal a clean edged painted area.

Scumbling - Use a brush with a small amount of paint in it, then “scrub” the surface of the painting to create a soft edged image.

Matte Medium/Gloss Medium - Add paint to a clear acrylic paint to thin acrylic paint for a glaze appearance or transparent layer. (Without water).

Dry Brush - Use a stiff brush with little paint to then drag or “flick” the brush across the surface to create textures like grass.

Palette Knife Painting - Use a Palette Knife to apply the paint directly to the canvas to create large, rough texture.

Blending - Mixing paint using any method or tool so that the colors and/or values slowly change from one to another.

Pointillism - In this technique an artist applies “dots” of paint to the surface to create a rough texture.

Modeling Paste - Add modeling paste to the acrylic paint to make an extremely thick paint which would hold it's extremely rough texture. Or use modeling paste first, let dry, then paint over.



Impasto - A very thick application of paint