

custom statement art

WITH BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN

MATERIALS:

- 1 dropcloth
- 1 sketchpad
- 1-3 colored pencils
- 1-3 colors of paint (we used flat latex for this project)
- 1 store bought stretched canvas (we used 30"x48" and wouldn't suggest going smaller than 16"x20"), 1" thick minimum
- 3-4 paint brushes in the \$12-\$20 range, 2" to 4" wide including at least one angled brush
- 1 roll of plastic wrap (used to wrap brushes in use to keep them from drying out between coats)
- 1 regular or quick-dry spackle
- 1 putty knife, spackle knife, or trowel
- 1 roll of painter's tape non-yellowing water or oil-based sealer

PREP YOUR SPACE

1. Prep your space by covering your work surface with a dropcloth. This project can be done on a flat surface or an easel if you have one.
2. Gather all of your materials, so everything is readily available.

PLAN OUR YOUR ART

3. Draft a loose sketch of what you want to paint using colored pencils to get a sense of color, scale, and proportion.

TIP: Usually a color palette with one to three colors works best, and using your darkest color at the bottom of your piece works well for balance.

4. Think of the canvas in thirds—so with a two-color palette, put one color in one-third and the second on the other two-thirds. For a one-color palette, focus on texturizing and plan to add contrast with your frame choice.

TEXTURIZE YOUR CANVAS

5. Using spackle and a putty knife, layer spackle onto the canvas to add texture. Don't go too heavy as it can break off once dry.
6. Let the spackle dry completely before moving on to the next step.

PREP FOR PAINT

7. Using painter's tape, tape off the canvas to separate where each color will go.

COLOR BLOCK YOUR CANVAS

8. Using your brush, add the paint to the top half of the canvas. If you are leaving the canvas unframed, paint the sides as well for a more finished look. Paint up to the painter's tape, being careful not to let paint pool or drip.

9. Once the paint has dried completely, decide how many more coats you need.

TIP: Be advised that the texture may become less noticeable the more coats you add.

10. Once the top of the canvas is dry, carefully remove tape.

11. Using your angled brush, add the next paint color. Be careful to create a sharp line where the colors meet or add another strip of painter's tape to use as a guide. As with the first color(s), let the paint dry completely to determine how many coats you'll need and remember to paint the sides too.

TIP: If possible, let the paint dry in the sun for about two hours.

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SEAL THE PAINTING

12. Using a clean brush, apply clear sealer to the entire surface of the dry painting. Allow the sealer to dry completely. A water-based sealer will take about two hours, while an oil-based sealer can take up to two days.

FINISH OR FRAME YOUR PAINTING

13. Once complete, you can leave your painting unframed if that is the look you desire. Or, to give the art a more finished and professional look, have it framed with a 'floating' frame, leaving a 1/4" gap around all four sides.

14. Hang and enjoy!