

## DRIP AND POUR PAINTING

Acrylic pouring is a painting technique where acrylic paint is mixed with some type of pouring medium and then applied onto a surface many ways. Sometimes colors are poured directly from individual cups, and other times multiple colors are combined into one cup and poured together.

After that, the surface is tilted in each direction to let the paint flow and the colors interact in unpredictable, yet always interesting, ways.

No matter which of the many pour painting methods or techniques you try, you can create your very own abstract fluid art at home.

The other various supplies are available at discount, dollar or hardware stores and can also usually be found online.

### **Pour painting gets quite messy and the paint will take a few days to dry, so here are suggestions for creating your drip and pour paintings**

- Set up in a clean, dust-free space so that dust or pet hair doesn't end up in the wet paint.
- Use a completely level, stable surface so the painting can dry with a smooth finish.
- Try to use a room with a door that can be closed if you have pets or curious younger siblings, so they won't accidentally touch or tip your painting.
- Rinse and dry the measuring spoon between each color.
- Use small, air-tight plastic or glass containers instead of plastic wrap and rubber bands, if you have them.
- Place your canvas on a raised surface. I like using empty metal soup size cans because they raise the canvas.

### **Prep your work surface**

Cover an area of your countertop or table with a sheet of aluminum foil to protect it from paint splashes or spills.

Before getting started, cover your workspace with plastic sheeting to keep your surface clean and make clean-up easier.

To help contain the paint that will be dripping off the canvas, you can use an aluminum baking pan. If you line it with paper or some aluminum foil, it should stay clean enough to re-use.

It's a good idea to wear an old apron or t-shirt to keep paint off your clothes. Even though acrylics are water soluble, they can be difficult to get out of clothing.

### **Mixing your paints**

Add 2.5 level teaspoons of Golden GAC 800 to each plastic beverage cup.

Add one level 1/4 teaspoon of Liquitex Soft Body paint in the colors and color combinations listed below to each cup.

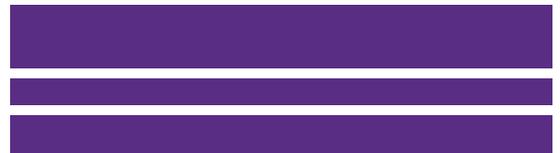
Slowly stir each cup with a wood craft stick until the paint and pouring medium mixture is completely blended.

Cover each cup tightly with some plastic wrap and secure it well with a rubber band. Set the cups aside until you're ready to paint.

If you'd prefer to use craft acrylics instead of the paint brand shown, add 3/4 teaspoon of paint to each cup of pouring medium rather than 1/4 teaspoon. Craft acrylics aren't the highest quality but are an option for kids and a lower-cost alternative to artist brands. The color and consistency of craft acrylics can vary a lot by brand, so you might need to adjust the amount used.

### **YOU WILL NEED:**

- Pre-stretched/primed canvas—available at craft stores (Michael's sells an 11"x14" pack of 7 for \$11.00)
- A nice, flat workspace where you can paint (and make a mess) and let the paintings dry over several days. (I suggest a garage)
- Golden GAC 800 pouring medium available at craft/art supply stores
- Liquitex Soft Body paint or student-grade squeeze bottle acrylic craft paint available at craft stores
- Cling plastic wrap
- Woodcraft sticks for stirring
- Plastic cups
- Rubber bands
- Plastic sheeting
- Latex gloves
- A shallow aluminum baking dish to catch the dripping paint



## **Pour Your paints**

Gather your cups of paint, disposable gloves, paper towels, palette knife (or a few large wood craft sticks) in your workspace. You can either put on your gloves now or before the next step.

Place your canvas on a raised surface. I like using empty metal soup size cans because they raise the canvas and are stable enough that they won't tip.

If you have a level, you can use it to check your canvas.

Uncover all your paint cups. The paint and pouring medium mixtures should now be air bubble-free. The cups don't need to be stirred again before painting.

If any of the paint and pouring medium has separated, use a wood craft stick to blend it together.

## **Let it flow**

Now we're at the step most pour painters love the most. You're ready to make the paint flow!

Pour directly from each cup in random swirls over the entire canvas. You never quite know how all the colors will come together until you get to this point. This step can take some practice to master, but with each painting you try, you'll discover what works best and how to improve with the next one.

Pick up your canvas and slowly tilt it in one direction at a time until the flowing paint approaches the edge. It's fine if some paint goes over the edges but try not to let too much flow off until the canvas surface is fully covered.

You will want to pour off enough paint so there's not a thick puddle on the surface without pouring off the best parts of your design.

Continue tilting in different directions until your entire canvas surface and sides are covered and you're happy with the overall composition and color patterns.

Place the canvas squarely in the center of your cans. The paint will start to thicken within a few minutes, so avoid further work on the surface once this has happened.

## **Dry time**

Paintings created with the acrylic pouring technique take about two to three days to completely dry. If you pour an especially thick layer of paint, it could take longer. When in doubt, don't touch the surface because if it's not quite dry you'll leave a fingerprint in the finish.