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PROFESSIONAL



ACRYLIC
MEDIUMS



TIPS, TECHNIQUES & PROJECTS

GLAZING WITH ACRYLICS

Acrylic glazing is a process where a medium is used as a base and tinted with transparent or translucent colors, creating a color mix that contains transparent layers. Glazing produces rich surfaces with great color depth and jewel-like finishes.



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Glazing was the signature method used by artists like Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Vermeer. They glazed because the pigments in their palette would turn black if they mixed them together directly. If they wanted a purple, they had to lay down a layer of transparent red, let it dry, then put down a layer of transparent blue to visually blend the colors, rather than physically mixing them on the palette. The light passing through the transparent layers gives the painting a special glow, which can shift and shimmer, depending upon the light. In this way, a very real depth of the painting can be achieved.

- Choose an area you are comfortable you can cover in about 15-20 minutes time. Do some practice strips to get a feel for the media.
 - In order to create thick relief glazes using paints and gel mediums, it is advisable to apply several successive layers. To achieve the highest degree of translucency, allow each layer to fully dry before applying the next. Over time the colors will become brighter and deeper as the gel clarifies.
 - The more glaze layers, the more visual depth the image will have.
 - Gloss Medium & Varnish and Slow-Dri® Blending Medium can also be used for glazing.
1. Mix the glaze with your palette knife rather than your brush. If the glaze is still too thick, add some Airbrush Medium and stir the mix completely.
 2. Brush your glaze color using a soft bristle brush. Brushing in a single, uniform direction will create a smoother glaze. Let this layer dry for approximately 30-40 minutes.
 3. You can now add a second glaze by repeating the process, with a different color. You'll find that, by building layers of color, glazing helps you bring a deep, burnished glow to your images.

Liquitex Soft Body Acrylic Colors are ideal for glazing.

Choose transparent colors. Transparent pigments will deliver the best results producing clear, clean glazes. Most modern pigments have very powerful tinting strength, so it only takes a little to tone the medium.

Use the following ratio for the ideal degree of flow and brushability:

- Transparent Color, Soft Body (1 part)
- Glazing Medium (10 parts)

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