

2021 Flow Art Painting Workshop

With Tanya Khachiyan

Acrylic pouring, also known as flow art, or fluid art painting is a form of abstract art that uses acrylic paints with a runny (fluid) consistency. Layers of acrylic paint are poured into a cup, which then react with each other when combined to create organic free-flowing abstract compositions.

When poured onto the canvas or surface, the imbalance of different paint densities creates interesting and visually stunning reactions. It's fun, rewarding and can be done by just about anyone!

This technique has been the collaboration of many individuals. It first emerged in the 1930's from an artist named David Alfaro Siqueiros. He simply poured different colors of paint one on top of each other and allowed them to spread and mix. So fascinated by what happened, he worked to discover the science of why. This question was taken up much later on by art historian Sandra Zetina and physicist Roberto Zenit.

The best about pouring technique is that you don't necessarily have to be a talented artist or have great drawing skills. But having such skills might help you enhance your pours with brush work. In general, you just need some acrylic pouring supplies, a little bit of time and can enjoy creating unique art you will be satisfied about. The results are always unpredictable, unique and cannot be reproduced. The more you practice, the more rewarding it becomes as you will see endless possibilities. You can pour on canvas, wood, plastic and use different tools such as craft sticks, straws, kitchen strainers, hair dryer, combs, lazy Susan, along with traditional brushes and pallet knives. Different techniques can be used to create interesting works of art, such as flip cup, dirty cup, puddle pour, ring pour, travelling ring pour, reverse dip, swipe, open cup, etc. Below are examples of my works where I used some of these techniques. You can check out more on my YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsH2e2oddEW0b-yxFduiF1w>.

Flip cup



Ribbon



Reverse dip



Swipe



In pouring art, acrylic paints are mixed with pouring medium, then paints are layered in a cup and poured onto canvas or other painting surface, tilted and stretched to achieve various effects and results. Different amounts of paint are required for different size surfaces.

The reference materials listed below provide more information about the type of techniques, paint calculator, necessary supplies, etc. There are also references to artists you can watch on YouTube.

Reference Materials

<https://cowans.org/blogs/cowans-art-knowledge-know-how/pouring-acrylic-crash-course-101>

<https://acrylicpouring.com/basic-supplies-get-started-acrylic-pouring/>

<https://feltmagnet.com/painting/Pour-Painting-Supplies>

<https://acrylicpouring.com/the-complete-acrylic-pouring-techniques-guide/>

<https://fluid-painting.com/en/acrylic-pour-techniques/>

<https://leftbrainedartist.com/how-much-paint-to-use-for-an-acrylic-pour/>

<https://olgasoby.com/acrylic-pouring-paint-calculator/>

Artists on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0tblnZOLYYxa1D4Uq6IYEQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GillyKubeacrylicpouringartCreations/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvdXNgdzdXuCX7cpXkj3Klw/videos>

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