make something real

Strathmore®
ARTIST NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19 | ISSUE 4 | FALL 2021

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and triple primed
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MAIN FEATURE

Mixed Media Wanderlust

By Tracy Verdugo

When I was a young girl I would spend hours immersing myself in the pages of an old stained and torn world atlas at my grandmother's house, saying out loud the names of exotic cities and countries and imagining the day when I would be able to travel to them. I was allowed to add sticky notes and dots to the places I wanted to go to and I remember at one stage adding a dot to every interesting place I found within the parameters of the equator, stretching out towards the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

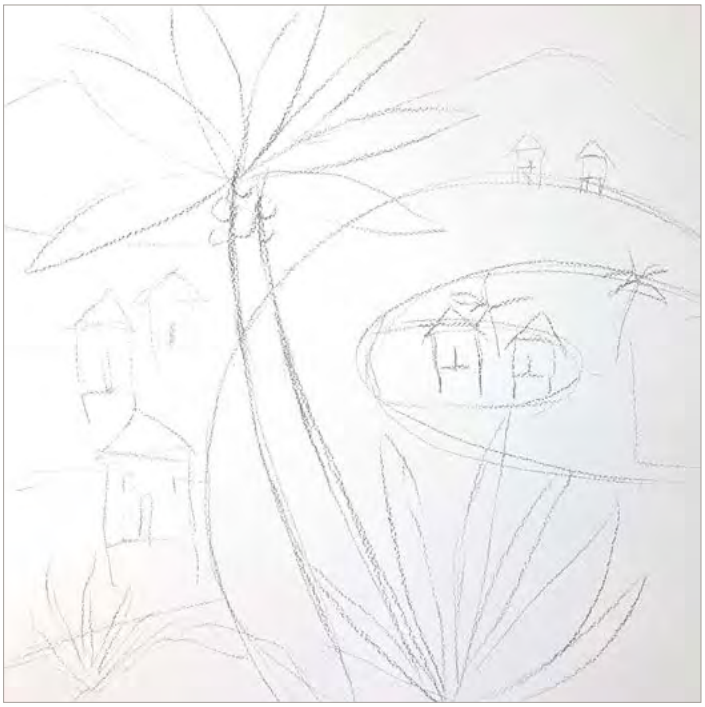
Now in my fifties, I've been lucky enough to have travelled to many amazing places teaching my workshops and retreats and gathering inspiration for paintings. We live in Australia and although we have travelled as far North as the breathtaking fjords of Norway and south to the stunning landscape of New Zealand, the tropics and warmer climates still hold a special place in my heart. My mixed media Wanderlust series reflects that, incorporating snippets of memory and imagery from my explorations in Bali, Cambodia, Fiji, and Mexico.

continued

Our family has always been open to spontaneous travel, chance meetings with strangers who become friends, and serendipitous unfoldings. In many ways my art practice is like this too, allowing for accidental happenings that may lead me in a new direction, listening to my intuition to decide the next move, and embracing the contrast in the painting experience, knowing that we can oscillate from frustration to flow and back again in a session.

In this tutorial I start with a pristine piece of Strathmore Series 300 Watercolor paper but often I'll begin by painting over a "failed" piece allowing the underlayers to bring mystery and interesting textures and marks to the painting that evolves. I work mostly on Strathmore Watercolor paper both in my own work and my tutorials, and I love the way that I am able to apply fluid layers of Daler Rowney acrylic inks, other acrylic media, pencil, oil pastel, pen, and handmade collage papers. The paper takes all of these beautifully.

TUTORIAL



Step 1: For this tutorial I'm using paper from an 18 x 24" Strathmore 300 Series Watercolor pad (cut down to 18 x 18"). I generally tape medium to large works on paper to my working surface using masking tape or blue painter's tape. I like the clean framed edge this provides and it also allows my collectors to add matte and frame without losing any of the image.

Step 2: Using charcoal I loosely sketch in the major elements of my composition as a guide, knowing that I can change, paint over, and add details as I go along.

continued

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Step 3: Beginning with a palette of Phthalo Turquoise and Quinacridone Burnt Orange fluid acrylics (mixed together they make a beautiful rich dark), I begin with some expressive mark making which will give me interesting textures in the underlayer. I often take a trip into the garden to find mark making tools and also use pencil, oil pastel, and stencils in this layer.

Step 4: I add to the palette Teal, Golden Nickel Azo Yellow, and titanium white fluid acrylics, and Flame Orange and Ultramarine acrylic ink.

Blocking in color across most of the imagery, I begin to add in a few trees and details thinking of contrasting elements, lights on darks and smaller details on top of larger color swatches. I allow colors to blend in areas that are still slightly wet and add glazes over some dry areas to create depth and variation of color. I add in deeper Ultramarine Blue in drops over the dry teal river, spread the color with a little water and then drop in 100% isopropyl alcohol for a resist effect through to the teal underlayer.

Allow to dry at this point.

continued

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Step 5: I keep a stash of handmade papers in my studio, roughly organized into color families, and love to bring them into my Wanderlust paintings as an extra element of texture and surprise! Tissue paper and old sewing patterns are two of my favorite things to make marks on and use in collage. They are thin enough to integrate well into the painting and their transparency allows the underlayers to be visible.

I always aim for a balance between collaged and painted areas and I try out both torn and cut shapes in different areas before committing to gluing them down with matte medium. In this piece I break with the mostly complementary color scheme of blues and oranges, adding in several collage pops in shades of pale to hot pink!

Step 6: In the final stage I add details in paint pen, paint, and gel pens, looking for a pleasing balance in both lights, darks, and midtones as well as patterned, plain areas, and color. Often my last move will be to use a light wash of Daler Rowney white acrylic ink to brighten the sky and add highlights across the work.

You can learn more about my process in my free *Abstract Approaches* class on my site *HERE* and follow along my creative adventures on *Instagram.*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

If Tracy Verdugo was given the opportunity to coin a term for a new art movement based around how she paints and what she teaches she might call it "Curiosity and Wonderism" or maybe "Loosen-upism" or "Endless possibilitism".

When she is not hanging out with her family in their eclectic adobe home in a small village on the shores of Jervis Bay, Australia, or throwing paint around in her little purple studio in their backyard, you may find her painting beside thermal pools on an Italian island with an eager group of students, Aperol Spritz in one hand, paintbrush in the other, or sitting in a circle on St Pete Beach, Florida, listening intently as women share their stories of creative yearning.

Tracy is an inspiration instigator, prolific painter, bestselling author of the book *Paint Mojo,* lover of the written word, smitten traveler, and soaker up of all that is beautiful. She teaches her creative workshops all over this amazing planet
and online, reminding her students of the wonder that already resides within them.

Her works are vibrant and filled with joy, inspired both by global travels and the simple beauty of the focused moment. Since 2000 Tracy has held 18 successful solo exhibitions and her works are held in collections both in Australia and internationally.

Mostly though, she is mama bear to two gorgeous, zest-filled daughters, Santana and Cece, her precious granddaughter Nora Luz, and co-adventurer in life with her amor of 34 years, the talented and brilliant Marco.

See more of Tracy's work at the links below:
Website
Facebook
Instagram
YouTube

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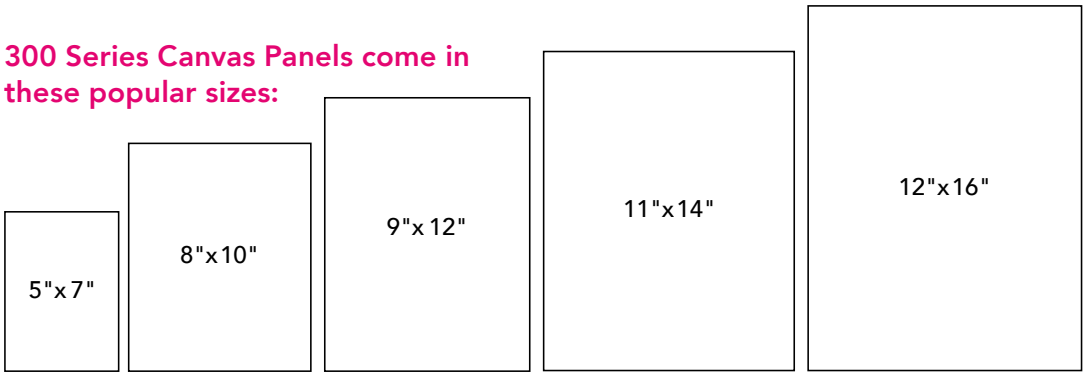
INTRODUCING

300 SERIES CANVAS PANELS

NEW **Strathmore 300 Series Canvas Panels** are an ideal surface for practice or final art by artists of all skill levels. Made of 100% cotton canvas, they're triple primed saving you time and money. Excellent for use with acrylic, oil, and water mixable oil paints. They're also sturdy enough for heavy applications such as mixed media, collage, and impasto.

300 Series Canvas Panels come in these popular sizes:



• 100% cotton canvas • triple primed/12 oz. primed weight
• medium grain texture • acid free

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GOUACHE SKULL TUTORIAL

by artist
Jordan Rhodes

October is a great time to make spooky art. Follow along with Jordan Rhodes as he demonstrates how to paint a skull using gouache on his Instagram page. Check out his full live stream as he shows his techniques and answers questions along the way *at this link.*

See more from Jordan on *Instagram.*

MATERIALS

Strathmore 400 Series Toned Tan Mixed Media Paper
184lb / 300gsm

Maimeri Gouache
Burnt Sienna
Sky Blue
Yellow Ochre
Titanium White
Black

Princeton Neptune Brush
3/4" Wash

Princeton AquaElite
1/2" Stroke, 1/4" Stroke and Rigger Size 8

Graphite pencil - HB

Palette

Eraser

Paper towels and containers for water

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Strathmore® 2021 ONLINE WORKSHOP SERIES

Join us for Strathmore's **FREE** 2021 Online Workshops!

Strathmore's Online Workshops feature free video lessons and downloadable instructions created by experienced artists. Follow along in the online classroom as instructors guide you through various art topics. After a lesson is released, it remains on the site for viewing the rest of the year.

Share all the fun on *Instagram* and *Facebook* using #StrathmoreWorkshops

UPCOMING ONLINE WORKSHOP:

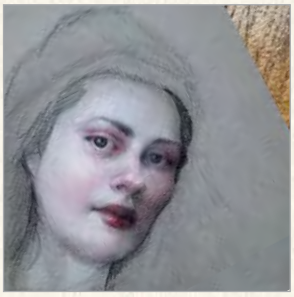
WORKSHOP 4: Oil Painting for Beginners

Instructor: Katie Jobling • Start Date: Nov. 1, 2021

Dive into the world of oil painting, a beautiful medium that was favored among the masters. Together we will create some beautiful works, which will help you grow in confidence while deepening your understanding of oil painting. You will learn about mixing colors, building layers and the secret to oil painting success.

REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP

WORKSHOPS 1, 2, AND 3 VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!



WORKSHOP 3: Drawing 101

Instructor: Kelly Foss

Learn about art materials, how to use them, ways to set-up your space, and how to avoid 3 mistakes many students make. Kelly will lead you in discovering classical drawing techniques, which will help your drawings look more realistic and your creative time be more fun.

VIEW THE WORKSHOP 3 VIDEOS

WORKSHOP 2: Exploring Mixed Media

with Shelly Kim

Explore mixed media tools such as watercolor, acrylic inks, and markers to create simple and colorful artwork. Learn how to paint various illustrations from loose florals to fruits and veggies.

VIEW THE WORKSHOP 2 VIDEOS

WORKSHOP 1: Watercolor & Gouache

with Jordan Rhodes

Learn about the basics of both watercolor and gouache and paint along as Jordan demonstrates his approach to painting the same subject with both mediums.

VIEW THE WORKSHOP 1 VIDEOS

WORKSHOPS CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021

Join us for our free workshops at: **www.strathmoreartiststudio.com**

NEW ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to **"New Artist Spotlight"**. This feature provides us with an opportunity to share the work of promising, new artists who are just starting their careers. For our second **New Artist Spotlight** we'll meet **RoxsyLin,** a multi-talented illustrator who also is a writer and a graphic designer. Learn more about RoxsyLin in the bio and links below.

ROXSYLIN - AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Roxsy grew up in Merida, a tiny town in Venezuela, and had the sweetest grandpa in the whole wide world. Roxsy, grandpa, and their faithful Dachshund, Cynthia, enjoyed going to the Farmers Market almost every day. The endless colors of the market amazed her little girl's heart, and Roxsy recalls using her crayons until there was nothing but a chubby stump as she kept trying to sprinkle her drawings with the shops' vibrancy.

Roxsy currently works as a freelance illustrator for the publishing business. She lives in Los Angeles with her inseparable chum, Eduardo, and together, they create whimsical stories for children.

See more of RoxsyLin's work here: Website: *roxsylin.com,* Instagram: *@roxsy_lin*

VERSATILE HIGH-QUALITY MEDIUM BODY

System3 acrylics are highly versatile water-based acrylic colors. Made from high quality pigments, their superior pigment loading allows for them to be thinned with water to create pale washes or used directly from the pot to form an insoluble film. The fast-drying properties of System3 enables artists to work quickly, superimposing or juxtaposing colors with ease. The comprehensive range of 54 colors, including metallics and fluorescents, offers excellent lightfastness*, permanence, intermixability, durability and covering power.

system3

*With the exception of fluorescent colors which are fugitive by nature

Artist Katie Jobling at work

Varnishing Your Art: 4 Things You Should Know

Working with Oil and Acrylic paints has an important benefit that you won't get with most mediums: they're ideal to use with varnish.

We've talked about some of the steps you can take to protect your artwork, but varnish deserves special attention. It's the most effective way to ensure your painting is preserved for years to come, but it can also cause irreparable damage if done incorrectly. You might be surprised to find that varnish can also affect the look of your painting in ways you might not expect.

Applying varnish to a painting is a simple process once you get the hang of it, but there are a few things you should keep in mind.

See all 4 varnishing tips *HERE.*

PRINCETON ARTIST BRUSH CO.™

New to Oil Painting? Join Us for the Strathmore Online Workshop 4 with Katie Jobling

Dive into the world of oil painting, a beautiful medium that was the favored amongst the masters. Artist Katie Jobling will guide you through the process of creating beautiful paintings. Grow your confidence while deepening your understanding of oil painting. Learn about mixing colors, building layers, and the secret to oil painting success.

Strathmore Workshop 4 begins Nov. 1
Register to Join Us *HERE.*