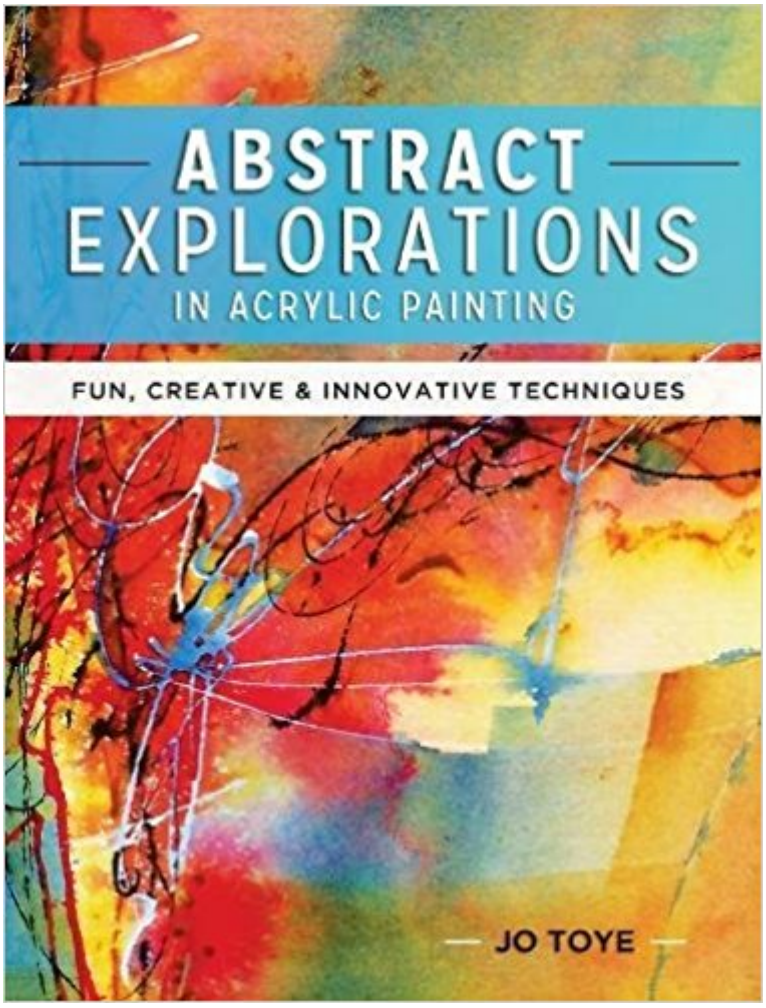
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Abstract Explorations In Acrylic Painting: Fun, Creative And Innovative Techniques



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Synopsis

Discover abstract painting with acrylics! "If you approach your art with a playful attitude you will be more apt to keep making art, and the more art you make, the better your art will be." --pg. 10 Like a diving board for creativity, Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting will help you plunge joyfully into artmaking. With the belief that an attitude of playfulness is key to artistic growth, award-winning acrylic artist Jo Toye leads you on an engaging workshop-style adventure filled with innovative techniques, inventive approaches and breakthrough results.Work Small. Start by discovering how working on a small canvas yields big payoffs. When you don't have anything to lose but a few minutes and a little piece of paper, you'll find that you paint more fearlessly, absorb new concepts faster and enjoy yourself more.Step-by-Step Instruction. Learn what tools Toye finds most useful in making art, along with 17 step-by-step demonstrations showing how to use them to best effect.Start-to-Finish Painting Projects. At the heart of the book, 8 start-to-finish painting projects put it all together. Discover fresh takes on stenciling, sponging, making and working with gesso. Use razor blades and applicator bottles to create distinctive linework. Achieve wonderfully original patterns using resist pens, mouth atomizers and India ink. Experiment with Clear Tar Gel, pour paint with pipettes, work over top a "failed" painting...all yielding brilliantly original results. Heavily illustrated and filled with exciting ideas you won't find anywhere else, Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting will inspire you to paint, experiment, play...and come away with some of your best work yet!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jo Toye is an award-winning experimental artist who lives in Scottsdale, Arizona. Her work has

been published in several books and magazines, and in 2009 Jo was selected for the annual "Ones to Watch" feature article in Watercolor Artist magazine. She is a popular workshop instructor and finds great delight in sharing her unique techniques as well as empowering fellow artists to find both new joy and direction in their art. She has recently combined her love of line with her love of cats and released, Cat-a-Doodles, an adult coloring book filled with whimsical cats to color and love. Go to Jo's Author page to see video walk-throughs of her books.

What a wonderful find! I've been searching for a book such as this for quite some time. I am a self-taught artist since grade school, but life and other such things happened and I walked away from painting. Enter Bruce Lee...he came to me in a lucid dream where as soon as I saw him, I feigned a karate chop at him. He silently shook his head 'no' while smiling, took me by the hand and led me back to a table full of paints, brushes and a half finished painting. Could his message have been, "Don't fight it, go back to painting." ??? So, my internet search for acrylic abstract instruction led me to Jo Toye's book, Abstract Explorations. Oh my...it is exactly the instruction I've been looking for. And I can tell it's blooming my inner artist once again because her very first, simple task is to mix violet with acrylic glaze medium and play with that a bit. And did I play! I played for longer than I ought to and was late for work! I couldn't stop playing. Being a writer, I thought that was how I emoted, but being on the verge of a traumatic breakup, I unleashed much of what I'd been holding inside me as 'therapeutic painting'. Oh, the feeling was cathartic and wonderful. So, if you're like me and have a gazillion art instruction books on your shelves that are dusty and sadly unused, buy Jo Toye's book and allow it to unleash your fiery, inner Artist Warrior too !

I am an abstract artist and I HIGHLY recommend Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting. I have purchased hundreds of art books and this book is one of the best I have ever purchased because it provides detailed step-by-step directions that you can follow. In a recent exercise I followed there were 19 steps in the process and at the end I felt like I had been in a class learning the process. In many art books, I try to follow the steps and often wonder how the artist went from step 4 to 5 as many things seem to be missing. In this book, there are complete details. In addition, she uses innovative techniques like painting with a razor and provides tips for being successful, avoiding making a mess and a variety of different techniques to try. You will find creative ways to make glue gun stencils, use make-up sponges, paint with pipettes, masking fluid, atomizers and tar gel. I learned to use glazing medium with gesso which was a new technique for me that I will use in the future. The book is written with humor in an easy to understand manner. Jo's book has amazing

paintings and tutorials that have inspired me and pushed my creative envelope. This is a must have book for all abstract artists or anyone interesting in trying their hand at abstract art. I have attached a picture of an exercise I created following the techniques in the book.

It's easy to see why this book is so highly rated by customers; Jo's vibrant attitude is obvious from the first few pages, and her laid-back approach to the subject encourages the reader to attack a new project with confidence. Rather than taking the reader through a series of progressively complicated projects, Jo encourages her readers to start several (small) paintings from throughout the book, so that you can have at least one ready to work on while the others are drying. Her instructions are easy to understand, accompanied by great step-by-step photos, and she includes one or two finished examples using the various techniques in each lesson. She introduces the use of masking fluid, fine line applicators, and shows several ways to create both masks and stencils. She wisely includes instructions for further work on a piece if the artist wants to add additional washes, glazes, etc. Her instructions for using each technique or tool are clear, and most importantly, she approaches everything with the attitude that painting should be FUN!I've already tried several of the projects in her book, and I think they would be appropriate for both a beginner and someone more advanced. This book is chock-full of eye candy and instructions for making your own! HIGHLY recommend this book.

I have painted in acrylics, but never abstracts. Now I have a request for one. This is a good book for those who dont know the techniques for abstract painting. Lots of pointers on how to get different effects.

I loved the exercises in this book because they were unlike anything I'd ever tried or seen before. It was exciting to see what the next one would be. The instructions were very clear and easy to understand but were still a challenge.

This book is chalked full of artistic techniques to find your creative expression. It is extremely well written, and seamlessly easy to understand and follow. I could not put this book down, as I read it cover to cover. This book will appease me until, I, personally can take a class from Jo Toye.

This book has so many ideas and very specific steps and list of materials to be used. I am not really into abstract art. This book has given me so many ideas and solutions that would help me in my

own work. In fact I did see some of the projects that made me want to try to do some abstract work after all!

After seeing Jo demo at a Northern Arizona Watercolor Society meeting I am inspired to purchase her book and try out her innovative painting techniques. A quick page through the book shows lots of detail, demo, and delightful abstract paintings!

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