

Creative Acrylics: A Step-by-Step Beginner's Guide to Creating with Paint & Mediums

Carla Co Chua

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Creative Acrylics offers would-be artists an easy and colorful introduction to the medium.

Painting with acrylics may seem daunting, but it is actually one of the more accessible painting options: painters don't need a lot of tools to get started, and many techniques are easy to learn. Carla Co Chua guides new painters through the required materials and basic skills, suggesting twenty-two projects, including still lifes and renderings of flowers, landscapes, and animals. The result is a firm foundation in the medium, including in basic color theory and mixing colors; in essential techniques like applying washes; and in using a dry brush and adding textures.

The projects are broken down, step-by-step, with text and photographs, making it easy to follow along. Tips throughout help with skills such as layering colors to add more depth, using two colors on a brush at the same time, or working with a palette brush to add texture to a mountainside. In addition to its approachable, skill-building projects worked on paper or canvas, the book also includes six projects painted on different materials (a clay pot, an apron, and a pair of shoes). These different substrates are fun and open up the imagination to other items that might be painted.

From a still life of a single orange to painted roses, a sunset with power lines, and a dog, Co Chua demystifies the process of successful acrylic painting. It's not a fast process, but taken in stride, even new painters can achieve wall-worthy results.

Creative Acrylics takes the mystery out of working with acrylic paint, exploring basic techniques and demonstrating how to apply them to a variety of projects. It is inspiring and encouraging, with professional tips for new painters that will help them to get good results, even with their first projects.

SARAH WHITE (January / February 2022)

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