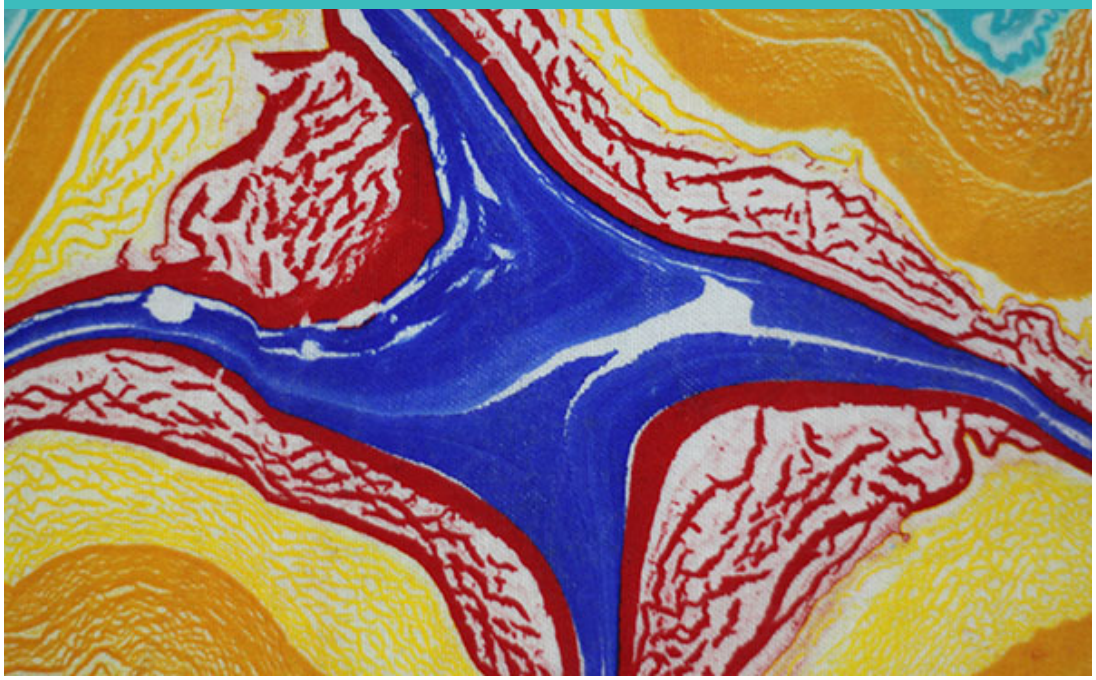
MARBLING

WITH ACRYLIC PAINTS ON FABRIC

INSTRUCTIONS



Printable Version

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Version 1

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MARBLING

WITH ACRYLIC PAINT ON FABRIC

Marbling involves floating inks and paints (acrylic, water color etc.) on a liquid or gel medium. Then you lay paper or fabric on top of the liquid to pick up the paints. This creates beautiful patterns that can result in fantastic abstract art.

It's really a lot of fun to do and the results cannot be completely predicted. This element of surprise adds to the excitement in marbling.

However, there is quite a list of supplies that you'll need to have in order to marbleize fabric. And it also involves a lot of prep work ahead of time.

Included in this tutorial is a comprehensive supplies list and detailed instructions on how to marble with acrylic paints onto fabrics as well as lots of tips to save you from making common mistakes .

If you're ready to have fun, let's get started.

MARBLING
WITH ACRYLIC PAINT ON FABRIC

Supplies for Marbling with Acrylic Paint

- Acrylic Paints (See below for thinning formula)
- Methocel (See mixing formula below)
- GAC 900 Acrylic Medium (used to make fabric washable and to give it a soft hand)
- Ammonia for mixing with methocel
- Cotton Fabric
- Alum for treating fabric (see below for instructions)
- Pipettes for dropping paint
- Combs, rakes, other implements for creating patterns
- Newsprint for removing bubbles in marbling medium
- Water and tub for rinsing
- Flat hard surface to hold marbled fabric for rinsing
- Marbling Tray (Size of tray determines size of fabric you can use)

MARBLING
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CAUTION: Always follow safety precautions when using chemicals

Formula for Thinning Acrylic Paints

Mix:
2 parts Golden Fluid acrylic paint
1 part water
1 part GAC 900 acrylic medium

Formula for Mixing Methocel

MARBLING MEDIUM OR SIZE
(This is what you will float the paints on)

You can use either carrageenan or methocel.
In this tutorial, methocel is used.

Make methocel mixture 30 minutes before use. (*let it stand for 30 minutes to an hour till size thickens*)

Mix:
1.5 TBS of methocel
1 TBS of ammonia
1 gallon of warm water

Stir Methocel solution until it's clear. The amount of marbling medium you'll need depends on the size of the pan in which you'll be marbling.

Super Tip: If your water is hard, add 1 tsp of distilled white vinegar to each gallon of your methocel mixture to help the paints float and not sink.

MARBLING
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Treat Fabric with Alum

Mix
1 TBS (2oz) Alum
1 Gallon Water

After washing your fabric in synthrapol or heavy duty laundry detergent, let it dry. Then wearing rubber gloves, soak the fabric into your alum mixture for a few minutes, pull it out and let it dry.

Super Tip: Fabric must be dry before marbling. Also, fabric must be used within a few days of treating with alum since prolonged exposure to alum weakens the fabric.

So now that we've got all the prep work done- our fabric treated with alum, our marbling medium mixed and our acrylic paints thinned – let's get started.

MARBLING

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1. Remove Bubbles in Sizing

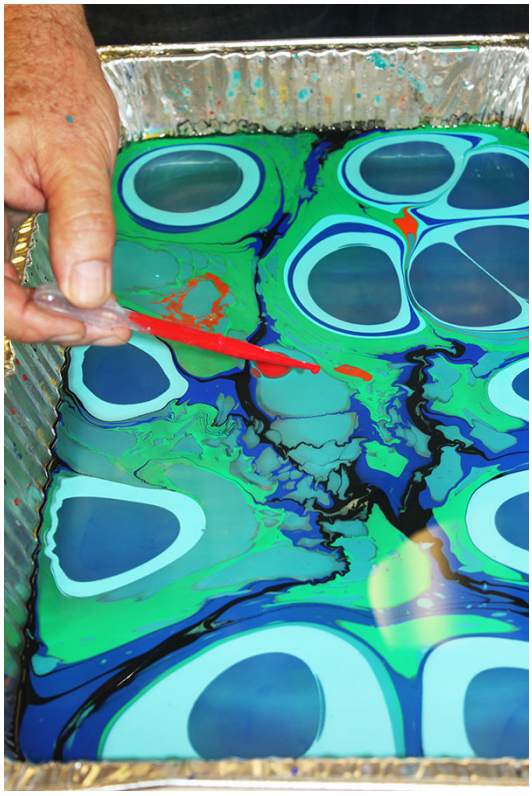
Fill the aluminum pan (1/2 way to the top) with marbling medium and remove bubbles from the medium using folded newsprint. Drag the folded newsprint across the surface of the marbling medium to remove bubbles.



MARBLING
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2. Drop Paint on Marbling Medium (Size)

Using an eye dropper or pippete, gently drop different colors of your thinned acrylic paints onto the marbling medium



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3. Create Patterns

Using combs, brushes, sticks, rakes and other tools to move paint drops around, create patterns on the marbling medium.

You can make swirls, flowers, organic shapes etc. This is where you let your imagination and creativity loose.



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4. Transfer Patterns to Fabric

Gently lay the alum treated fabric on top of the floating acrylic paint-pattern.



Super Tip: Cut the fabric to the size of the marbling pan leaving a little wiggle room for retrieving it later.

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5. Retrieve Marbled Fabric

Gently pick up your fabric, which would have in turn picked up the paint patterns and lay it on a board or other hard surface, for easy handling.



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6. Rinse Marbled Fabric

Bring your fabric to a sink or other wash pan. Then gently rinse with water to remove some of the size.



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7. Hang Fabrics to Dry

Hang your marbled fabrics to air dry.



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8. Heat Set Paints on Marbled Fabrics

Iron on the wrong side on med - high heat setting for at least 5 mins, using pressing sheets to protect your iron and ironing board. Alternatively, heat set in clothes dryer on high heat for 40 -50 minutes

Super Tip: Heat setting releases low levels of formaldehyde from the GAC medium. Good ventilation is therefore needed.



Congratulations!! Now, you're ready to use your marbled fabrics in your designs.

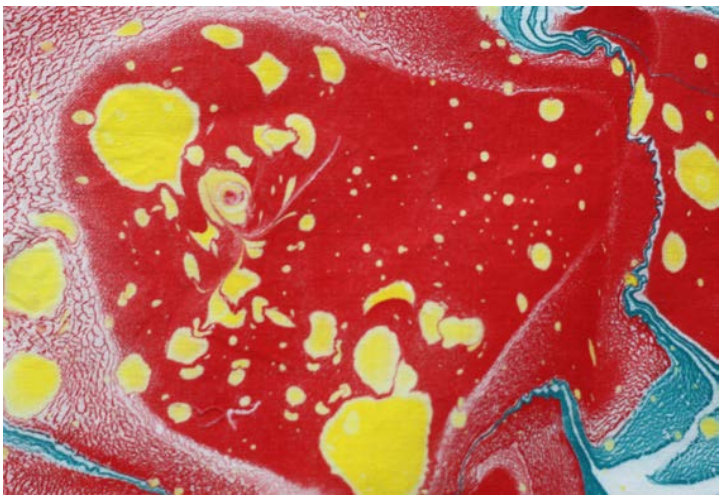
Super Tip: To wash: Allow 7-10 days for fabric to cure before washing in luke-warm water, mild agitation and mild soap.

MARBLING

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Examples of Marbled Fabrics

Using thread painting techniques, I created an awesome design with one of my marbled fabrics. See it here.





MARBLING

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Examples of Marbled Fabrics





MARBLING
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Take Action

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

Hey there!! I'm Clara! I'm an artist - a maker & a creator. I create art and I create content (e-books, videos, & articles) to help makers spark their creativity, develop new techniques and turn their passions into viable businesses. Contact me at me@ClaraNartey.com with your questions, comments and suggestions.

This pdf you've just read has covered how to use acrylic paints to create surface designs on fabric. There are so many ways to create surface designs on fabric including hand-dyeing, stitched thread drawing, and more.

To learn more about using machine stitches to create awesome pencil-like drawings on the surface of fabric, without knowing how to draw, then click here to

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You'll also become a Makers and Creators Club member. I treat club members as my "inner circle". So you'll become privy to my weekly notes and some pretty cool things (including occasional free stuff like this eBook)