

Pouring Medium Acrylic Skin



INTRODUCTION

This project demonstrates using Liquitex Pouring Medium, Liquitex Acrylic Ink, and Liquitex Soft Body Acrylic to create an acrylic skin, which can be affixed to a panel or canvas.

Acrylic will stick to most non-porous surfaces, but when poured or painted onto a non-stick surface such as palette paper, freezer paper, or a plastic sheet, it can be peeled off to create an unfixated sheet of acrylic.

The types of skins that can be created are limitless and they can be repurposed by cutting, assembling, and collaging.

This project is suitable for both beginner and advanced painters.

Time: 1.5-hours recommended.
(Drying time: 24-36 hours after Step 2)

MATERIALS LIST

1. Liquitex Pouring Medium
2. Liquitex Soft Body Acrylics (colors of your choice)
3. Liquitex Acrylic Ink (colors of your choice)
4. Liquitex Matte Medium
5. Liquitex Freestyle Paint Brush
6. Scissors
7. Utility knife
8. Panels or canvas
9. Small plastic cups
10. Palette knife
11. Flexible non-stick surfaces like palette paper or plastic sheets





PROJECT STEPS



STEP 1: Mixing the Colors

Set out disposable palette paper, or any non-stick surface large enough to account for spreading. Set out enough surfaces to have space to experiment with multiple pours and different techniques.

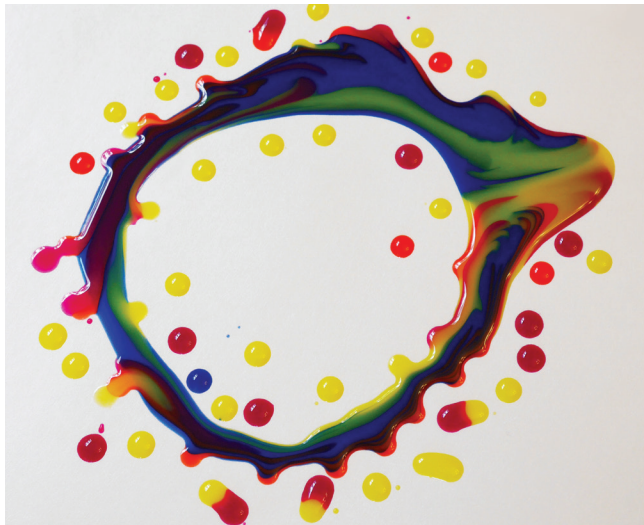
Mix a 10:1 ratio of Liquitex Pouring Medium and Liquitex Acrylic Ink or Liquitex Soft Body Acrylic into small cups. More or less Pouring Medium can be added based on the desired transparency. Pouring Medium dries clear, so adding more into a mixture will make that mixture more transparent. Any number of colors can be used for this project. Pouring Medium spreads and mixes quickly, so have all cups of color ready before starting to pour.



STEP 2: Pouring the Colors

Pour colors onto the non-stick surface. Palette paper, freezer paper, and plastic drop cloths work better than non-flexible surfaces like glass because you can peel both the skin and the surface away from each other.

The premixed colors can be applied many different and fun ways. The colors can be layered in a single cup and poured all at once; individual colors can be poured onto the surface one at a time; or a palette knife can be used to drip color onto the surface. The possibilities are limitless, so feel free to experiment! Dripped textures, patterns, and shapes can all be created, but keep in mind that the Pouring Medium will spread a lot as it dries, and the colors will merge and marble together. Be mindful of the colors mixing too much, as they will become muddy.



Dry the pours for at least 24 to 36 hours in a spot where they will not be touched or disturbed during the entire drying time. Ensure the drying surface is completely level and flat.



PROJECT STEPS



STEP 3:

Removing the Acrylic Skins

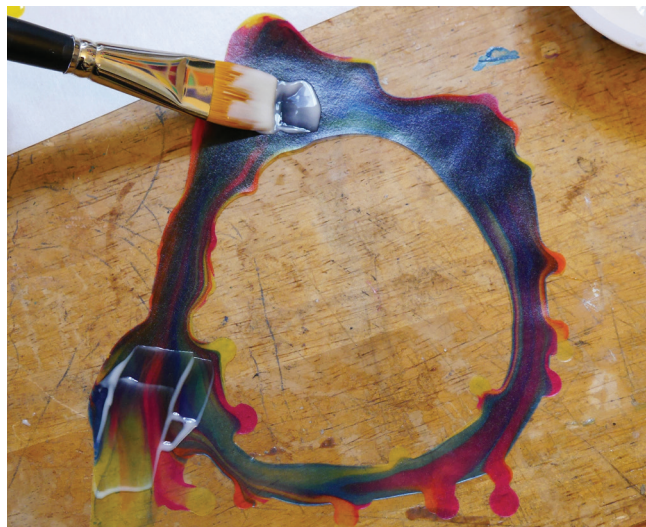
After 24 to 36 hours, the pours will be sufficiently dried and easy to remove from the non-stick surface. If the skins are not dry enough, they will be difficult to remove and may fall apart. Pouring medium can still be wet in places even when it seems dry, so be sure not to rush the drying process. To remove a skin from the non-stick sheet, start at a corner, slowly and carefully peeling it up to remove it in one piece. Once removed, the top will appear glossy and look as if it is wet while the other side will be very flat. Either side can be used when repurposing — this is an aesthetic choice.



STEP 4:

Manipulating the Acrylic Skins

The unattached skins can be cut into shapes with scissors or a utility knife, trimmed, and even stitched. Interesting sections cut out from a larger skin can be used or combined with elements of other skins to create dynamic compositions. Even something as small as a single drip can be an interesting addition to the finished piece.



STEP 5:

Collaging the Acrylic Skins

Once a desired composition has been achieved, the design can be collaged onto a panel or canvas using Liquitex Matte Medium. To glue the skins to the panel, paint Matte Medium on the back side of the skin and attach it to the surface, adhesive side down. Matte Medium is a good archival adhesive for this project because it, Pouring Medium, and acrylic, are all bound with acrylic polymer and therefore bond well together. The entire surface of the piece can be covered with the collaged skins or some of the canvas or panel can be left exposed.



PROJECT STEPS



STEP 6: Finishing Touches

Let the Matte Medium dry for about an hour to ensure that everything remains secured. Once dry, any edges that hang over the side of the canvas or panel can be trimmed using a utility knife. To trim, place the painting face down on a clean, non-stick surface and cut flush with the edge of the panel or canvas. The piece is now ready to hang!

THE FINISHED PROJECT





ABOUT THE ARTIST



Kristen Brown is a San Francisco-based artist originally from Saskatchewan, Canada. Her paintings explore the themes of dissociation, transience, memory, and truth. She utilizes blurred and slightly distorted images to embody a disruption in the way certain events are processed, resembling sorting through memories that feel fragmented or scattered.

Kristen exhibits at museums and galleries across the United States and Canada and was awarded a major painting grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation in Montreal. She holds a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Saskatchewan and an MFA in Painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Kristen is also an art instructor and conducts Liquitex and Winsor & Newton art materials demos for The Fine Art Collective throughout central and northern California.

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