

Altered Print Technique

Acrylic & Mixed Media Painting



October Fire On The Blue Ridge

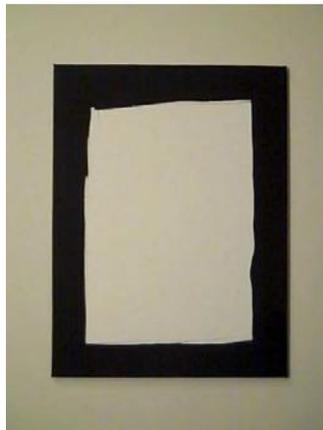
The print used for this project is from a photo of my original acrylic and mixed media painting. Print a photo of your painting or something else that interest you. Now find some media that you can incorporate into your painting.

Materials & supplies:

- Ink jet print 5" x 7"
- Acrylic paints to compliment your print
- Spray acrylic sealer or spray fixative
- 2 canvases 6" x 8" canvas panel and 8" x 10" panel or stretched canvas
- Acrylic polymer medium (Mod Podge or white glue is optional)
- 1" flat, small round (use synthetic brushes made for use with acrylic)
- Scissors
- Ruler (optional)
- Media (found objects in some way associated with the subject in your print)



Print your photo according to the size of the smallest canvas (canvas panel). I will be using a 1/2" border around my print so my first canvas is 1" wider and 1" longer than my print. Spray the print with a clear acrylic sealer or a fixative. The ink will smear if you brush over the print with a liquid sealer before properly sealing with several coats of spray sealer. Apply two light coats. Dry between applications. Use proper ventilation and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.



Smaller Panel Canvas



Larger Stretched Canvas

Paint the border around the smaller panel canvas so that the white of the canvas will not show when the print is centered over it. Do the same with the stretched canvas so that the white of the canvas will not show when the canvas panel is centered over it. Apply two coats to each canvas. Dry between applications. There is no need to paint the centers which will be covered later.



Use the 1" flat to dry brush several light layers of gold over the stretched canvas only. Allow hints of the black basecoat to show through.



You should have your sealed print and the two dry canvases ready before continuing.



Use the 1" flat to apply some acrylic polymer medium or white glue to the small canvas where the print will be adhered, and a thin coat also applied to the entire back of the print. Use a brayer or other tool to flatten and smooth the print. Start at the center and rub towards the edge of the print to remove any trapped air pockets. Make sure all air pockets are removed and all of the edges are sealed flat and smooth. Use a paper towel to gently wipe away any extra medium.



Apply some paint to areas of your print for additional color and texture. Do not overdo it. I have applied some white to the clouds, and small touches of blue and gold over the top and center of the ridge, and a hint of bronze to the left side of the sun only. The paint will dry while you complete the next step. You could also paint the print before attaching it to the panel.



I thought the black feathers would work perfect and really compliment this print being that I had included a few real feathers in the original mixed media painting.

The corner feathers were laid in place first. Being lightweight made them a little difficult to work with. To help keep them from moving, I used a dropper to apply a generous amount acrylic polymer medium to the feathered corners to weigh them down in place as seen in the above center photo. This will not be visible once it is later covered. A generous amount of medium was also brushed over the unpainted area of the canvas. You can also use white craft glue or wood glue in place of the acrylic polymer medium.



Here you can see how I centered the small canvas over the larger canvas.



Place a book under the stretched canvas for extra support. Stack some books on top of the painting for several hours or longer so the polymer medium has time to cure so that the painting can be safely handled. Place a piece of plastic wrap or wax paper under the stack of books and the one under the canvas to protect them from acrylic medium.



Use caution when handling the painting. It is still delicate at this stage.

The tip of the shaft of each feather was dipped in a generous amount of polymer medium then tucked under the small canvas. Clip away the thick part of the shaft before dipping them.

I allowed them to dry overnight again weighted down with books and one under it for support. The tips of the feathers were trimmed away from along the outer border of the large canvas once they were fully dry.

I decided that a gold border painted around the print would help to separate and create needed contrast, depth, and balance between the print and the two dark canvas borders.

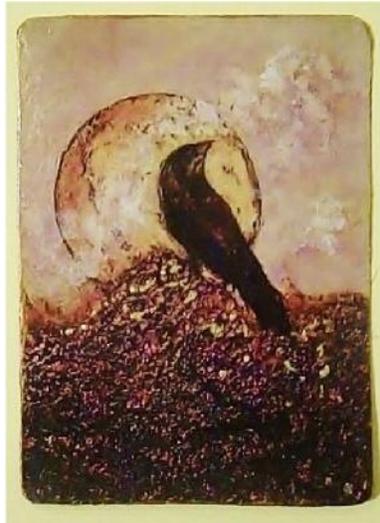


Spray two or three light coats of acrylic sealer over the feathers. Dry between applications. This will seal them and help adhere some to the canvas without damaging them as it will if you were to brush a liquid sealer over them.



Once the feathers have dried, apply acrylic glazing medium or varnish over your altered print. This is optional, but it will help to protect your painting and greatly enhance its colors and depth. If you wish the final sheen to be satin then apply several coats of a gloss finish first, before applying the final top coat of satin. Always dry completely between applications and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

There are some wonderful variations and endless possibilities with altered print techniques. So photograph your art then push it further in a whole new direction. Also see the tutorial 'A Brave Beginning' for another altered art version using a print of an antique portrait.



I also used this technique with a smaller 2.5" x 3.5" print for a limited edition of artist cards (ACEO).



Here is another version with only a few feathers used to embellish the framing. This time eggshells were applied along the outer border.