

WORKSHOP: "POUR PAINT BIRD AND FLOWER INSTALLATION"



Summary: Participants pour acrylic paints mixed with pouring medium onto pre-painted exterior grade plywood flower, bird and other shapes. The colours are swirled together by tipping the plywood shapes. Cell medium is used to create interesting shapes in the paint. The shapes are varnished and attached to a wood stairway outdoors using screws.

Materials and Equipment:

pencil, eraser, sharpener	paint brush
acrylic glassine pouring medium	8-10 plastic containers 2-4 oz size or yogurt containers
Golden liquid acrylic paints:	8-10 wood craft sticks
carbon black	plastic to cover work surface (not provided)
titanium white	cardboard pieces larger than shapes to work on
diarylide yellow	larger plastic containers (e.g. margarine size)
hansa yellow	sandpaper
primary cyan	2-3 wood skewers
phthalo blue (green shade)	deck screws rated for use in pressure treated wood
phthalo green (yellow shade)	t-shirt scraps for cleanup rags
phthalo blue (red shade)	exterior grade ¾" thick plywood shapes
burnt umber light	exterior grade non-toxic high gloss varnish (previous kit)
iridescent copper fine	optional: smock
sludge primer	instructions/ideas sheet
1 tube acrylic paint (thick) - outdoor colour	

Class Plan:

1. Optional: Draw shapes for flowers, birds or other theme outlines and send them to the class instructor.
2. Lightly sand the edges of shapes to smooth out any rough edges.
3. Apply 1-2 coats of sludge primer to all surfaces of the plywood. You can speed up the drying using a hair dryer with a cool setting.



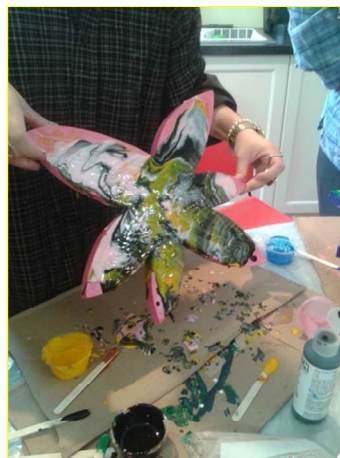
4. Solid colour paint your shape on all surfaces with regular acrylic paint. You can use the single tube provided or one of the paints from previous kits (don't use the liquid paints in the tiny pots for this step). This helps avoid having to make sure the pour paint in the next steps covers the surface entirely.
5. Cover your entire work surface with a cloth or plastic drop sheet because things will get messy! This is a great activity to do outside to avoid worrying about drips on nice floors.
6. Place a piece of cardboard in your work space, larger than the plywood shape to be pour painted. Use a separate piece of cardboard under each shape.
7. Place three plastic cups or one of the larger plastic containers provided, upside down on your work area. Stand your plywood shape on top of this, so the pour paint will drip off the edges onto your cardboard and not stick the plywood to the cardboard.
8. Pre-mix your pour paint medium with one colour at a time, with each colour in a separate container.
 - a. We used small plastic 2 oz size dip/applesauce containers that could easily be recycled afterward.
 - b. We used fade resistant high quality liquid Golden artist paints with a ratio of 1 oz pouring medium (1/4 fill your little container) with 5-10 drips of one colour paint per container.
 - c. Dip your craft stick in the paint and hold it over a pour paint medium container to add your drips of paint.
9. Stir each container with its own craft stick to mix the paint and medium. The mixing ratio does not have to be exact unless you want to replicate the same colour intensity later. If you are installing your artwork inside, craft acrylic paint can be used, just add a little more paint to each container because they generally contain less pigment. More viscous paint can also be used.



10. The paint colours selected for this project are the ones known to be the most colour fast. Some colours like the cadmium series are known to fade faster outside, so we avoided those colours.
11. There are several ways to do your pour painting onto your plywood shapes and you can try out your own methods (read step 12 before actually pouring your paint):
 - a. Pour colours onto your plywood shape from each individual container creating patterns.



- b. Pour your individual pour paint mixtures one by one into another container, layering them as you go. Then pour all your colours at once from that container onto your plywood shape. Experiment with the order you pour your colours in – they have different densities. For example white is higher density so pouring it in your jar first will add it to your plywood surface last and allow it to sink through the other layers and still be visible.
 - c. Pour from higher for fine lines or dribble paint from a dipped skewer. A craft stick can be used to get every drop out of the container. Experiment and have fun!
- 12. Optional: you can add cell flow medium to your pour paints before pouring them.
 - a. Add 1-2 drops of cell flow medium to each 1 oz (or 30 mL) of pour paint mixture). You can stir in the cell flow medium if you want to. The more you stir the smaller your cell formations will be on your finished work. You can also experiment with how much medium you add.
 - b. You can add cell flow medium either to your individual colour mixtures or to your all in one cup.
 - c. Cell flow medium is a silicone oil and will rise and settle on the surface of your paint creating wonderful cells of colour (circle formations).
- 13. Swirl your colours together by picking up and tipping your plywood shape back and forth. Add more pour paint mixtures as needed to cover your surface or choose to leave some areas uncovered.



- 14. Optional: skim the surface with your palette knife parallel to the paint surface for interesting effects.
- 15. Optional: Experiment with using your wood skewer (pointy end) to swirl colours. Colours can become muddy with too much skewer stirring however. Paint brushes tend to muddy the colours with too much use but are fun to try.
- 16. Stand your pour painted plywood shape face up and horizontal on your 3 plastic cups (or one larger container) to dry, with a piece of cardboard underneath each shape to catch the drips. Leave your pour

painting to dry for several days in a place that is not excessively hot and is dry. Do not leave your plywood sitting directly on cardboard because it will stick the cardboard to your shape.

17. Do not dry your pour painting in the hot sun or with a hairdryer unless you are aiming for cracks (they can be interesting!).
18. Do not stack the pour painted shapes even after they have dried!! Acrylic paint is designed to stick to itself and the shapes will cement themselves together even after a week or two of drying.
 - a. We aren't pour painting on the back of the shapes for the installation because the backs won't show and pour paint on the back would make it difficult to remove the shapes from Amethyst's stair railing for maintenance.
19. If you have pour paint finger prints on the back of your shape, you can paint over them with regular acrylic paint. Do not leave the shape pour paint side face down resting on a surface to dry when you do this. Place the wet paint side down standing on 3 face-up plastic cups to dry.
20. Apply 1-2 thin coats of exterior grade glossy acrylic varnish to all surfaces of your plywood shapes (varnish was provided in the cradle board workshop kit). Note that the more coats of varnish you apply, the duller the colours will become.
21. Allow your varnish to dry at least an hour between coats and minimize over-brushing to avoid having your varnish dry cloudy. The varnish looks white when it goes on, but dries clear. Allow the last coat of varnish to dry a few days before installing outside.
22. Remember not to stack the shapes because they stick together.
23. Attach the shapes outside.
 - a. Holes can be drilled in the plywood shapes and zip ties used to attach them to chain link fences.
 - b. Shapes can be attached to wood stair railing spindles out of the way of the functional railing, with screws from the back through the railing spindle into the back of the plywood shape pour paint side out.
24. If participants prefer to keep their shapes that is ok too. We always appreciate photos of your work if you feel like sharing.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- There are ways to add "cells" and other effects to the pour painting. There are lots of ideas online. Please send us your experiment results here to share!

Trouble Shooting:

- When a participant doesn't like how their pour painting worked out, the paint can be scraped off easily while still wet with a plastic knife or palette knife. Then they can try again on the same surface.



- If this activity is done in the hot sun and the artwork is left to dry in full heat, the surface will dry too fast and will crack when the under layer dries. This looks kind of cool and can simply be varnished, or more pour paint can be added on top when it is dry to fill in the cracks.
- Stirring the pour paint with a skewer can create interesting swirls. Too much stirring can make the colours muddy.
- If your pour painted shapes are stacked and stick together, separate them as carefully as possible. An x-acto knife can be used to cut parts of the paint instead of tearing it. Then repair the damage by very carefully scraping off portions of paint that came from other surfaces. After this, tiny amount of pour paint in the same colours can be poured onto the damaged areas and swirled to touch up the damage. When dry, varnish as described above.