

Bas-Relief Painting with Recycled Cardboard



INTRODUCTION

Bas-Relief is a low relief sculpture technique, where the sculpture projects slightly from the background surface.

In this project you will create a bas-relief painting using cardboard from old boxes. You'll cut out shapes that project into three dimensions from the canvas. The piece will be painted in the style of hard edge abstraction with Liquitex Acrylic Gouache. This mode of working provides opportunity to intuitively explore color and shape relationships structured in space.

Time: 2-hours recommended.

MATERIALS LIST

1. Liquitex Acrylic Gouache (in colors of your choice)
2. Liquitex Matte Medium
3. Liquitex Matte Gel
4. Liquitex Texture Gels of your choice: Ceramic Stucco, Glass Beads, Natural Sand, Resin Sand, Black Lava, White Flakes, Blended Fibers
5. Liquitex White Gesso
6. Brushes: Flat and Gesso
7. Corrugated cardboard
8. Utility knife
9. Metal ruler
10. Masking tape
11. Palette paper
12. Palette knife
13. Canvas panel
14. Water container





PROJECT STEPS



STEP 1:

Design and Cut your Motifs

Begin by designing curved and rectilinear shapes of varied sizes on the cardboard. Use a sharp utility knife to cut the shapes out and a metal ruler for any straight edges. Consider repetition and variety of shapes.

TIP

If you are not sure on how to get started with the designs, warm up in a sketchbook and start with some basic geometric and organic shapes. Then experiment by joining the two types and create composite shapes.



STEP 2:

Prep the Surfaces

With a soft brush apply 2-3 coats of Liquitex White Gesso to the cardboard shapes. Smooth over any brush marks. Wait for gesso to fully dry in between coats.



STEP 3:

Paint your Shapes

Paint the cut-outs in flat colors with Liquitex Acrylic Gouache. For a more dynamic design mask off specific areas to create hard edge abstract shapes both on the cardboard and the substrate. Use low tack masking tape to achieve the perfect hard edge.

TIP

To avoid paint seeping under the masking tape, brush the edge of the tape with a coat of Liquitex Matte Medium. If any wrinkles appear on the tape while the medium is wet, burnish it with your fingernail. Once the medium is dry, paint your color inside the taped shape. Remove the tape and you will have crisp edge.



PROJECT STEPS



STEP 4:

Add Texture

To add a tactile effect apply any Liquitex Texture Gel such as Glass Beads or Resin Sand to any of the cardboard cut outs..

TIP

To add even more visual interest, the textured pieces can also be painted with colors that contrast the already painted shapes.



STEP 5:

Compose your Shapes

5a.

Explore different configuration and overlap shapes. Build dimension by placing shapes over shapes until you achieve a dynamic composition that protrudes from the flat substrate.

TIP

If things are not clicking, rotate the canvas on its side or upside down and continue moving the shapes around.



5b.

Once satisfied, permanently glue the shapes to the canvas panel with Liquitex Matte Gel. After three layers of cardboard shapes the work will start to gain three-dimensional qualities.



THE FINISHED PROJECT



ABOUT THE ARTIST



Daniela Campins

Daniela Campins is a Los Angeles based artist who investigates the limit and relationship amongst abstraction, sign and writing. As of late, Daniela has been researching 80's telenovelas from her home country, Venezuela. Daniela's process involves corrupting and breaking down lines and verses from *canciones romanticas* or ballads featured in this *telenovelas* and incorporates them in her paintings. Daniela explores the materiality of paint, its potential for erasure, disintegration, excavation, and renovation.

Daniela received her MFA from the University of California Santa Barbara and BFA from California State University Long Beach. She is a recipient of the Virginia Commonwealth University Fountainhead Arts Fellowship. Her works have been exhibited at a number of national and international institutions and galleries.

Daniela is a lecturer of drawing and painting at California State University Dominguez Hills.

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