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Acrylic painting in contemporary fine art

Tat'yana F. Bugaenko

Professor,
Member of the Union of Artists of Russia,
Omsk State Technical University,
644050, 11, Mira ave, Omsk, Russian Federation;
e-mail: artistan@bk.ru

Abstract

The article is devoted to modern art medium – acrylic paints. A versatile and practical medium that occupied a leading position in the fine art, design, printing and finishing materials, has become the most popular paints among the artists. Acrylic paints are the best choice for a creator if he wants to achieve rich colors with a wealth of tones and shades. Acrylic is much brighter than watercolor and dries faster, and a huge variety of materials and brushes allows artists to create real masterpieces that are also durable. Artist can paint with acrylic on canvas, glass, metal, paper, wood and ceramics, which significantly expands the artist's capabilities. Acrylic paints can have different finishes after drying. The following types are distinguished: glossy, matter, semi-matte (satin), pearlescent, fluorescent, luminescent and metallic. Acrylic paints have a particularly wide variety of textures, retaining their shape and volume after drying. The unique properties and characteristics of this material allows artists to solve any problems in the visual arts.

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Keywords

Paint, acrylic, painting, decor, visual art.

Introduction

Painting is the representation of visible material with the tone plus color [Zaitsev, 1973]. The history of acrylic paints is rather short and sweet as acrylic paint has only been around the last 100 years or so. This material gained popularity among professional artists and painting enthusiasts has very quickly, as it allows authors to embody the most daring ideas. Easily application, speed of drying, ability to cover layer after layer, as well as a wide range of colors and excellent preservation of the paint layers, has made this material leading in modern fine art.

Theory

Acrylic paint has a number of unique properties. It can be transparent with watercolor transitions, it can be solid and voluminous, like oil and relief pastes. Today, artists have a large selection of acrylic paints for various purposes: for fabric, glass, ceramics, as well as aerosol paints and markers. The working surface for acrylic can be any surface, for example, canvas, board, paper, metal, concrete, plastic. Information about chemical processes and technological features of acrylic paints is freely available, and each artist has his own practical skills in working with acrylic.

Acrylic paints combine the ease of use comparable to gouache and the density and body of oil paints. In terms of its composition, acrylic is a type of water-dispersion paint that uses polyacrylates (mainly polymers methyl, ethyl and butyl acrylates) as a binder, as well as their copolymers as film formers [Acrylic paints, [www](#)]. The main area of application is in construction for interior and exterior work and in painting. Acrylic paints, like other water-dispersed paints, can be diluted with water; when diluted, they can be tinted with aqueous pigment pastes, but after drying they become resistant to water. May be toxic upon application due to various unpolymerized copolymers or monomers (e.g. styrene) [GOST 28196-89 Water-dispersion paints, [www](#)].

History

Acrylic resinous substances were obtained in Germany in the late 20s of the 20th century. Otto Roehm's discovery of polymethyl acrylate, a durable transparent plastic known throughout the world as plexiglass, and then a method of diluting solid resins with organic solvents led to the appearance of acrylic paints. The first synthetic paints were nitrocellulose oil paints, which appeared in the mid-30s in New York for the automobile and construction industries, already then used by Mexican artists and Charles Pollock. The second type of paint, introduced in 1927, included alkyd paint for buildings. The paints were highly viscous and sticky; it was actively used in painting by the abstract expressionist artist Willem de Kooning [Ermolovich, 1993].

The German chemical company BASF developed the first usable acrylic resin dispersion in 1934 and was patented by both Rohm and Haas. Synthetic paint was first used in the 1940s, combining some of the properties of oil and watercolor. In the middle of the last century, American typographers Leonard Bocour and Sam Golden invented acrylic paint under the "Magna paint" brand and released it to the market as the "Magna" brand. Turpentine served as a paint thinner. Abstract artists Rothko, Kooning, Barnett Newman, Kenneth Noland and Maurice Louis were the first artists who painted canvases with acrylic paints.

Then water-soluble emulsions appeared, and it was a real discovery! Universal acrylic paints on a

synthetic basis did not require complex solvents; they were water-soluble and had excellent characteristics: rich colors and hiding power.

In 1963, chemist Henry Levinson succeeded in developing a professional water-based acrylic paint for artists, which went on retail sale under the brand name "Liquitex". The artists received unique artistic material for creativity.

Information about the ease of use and reliability of acrylic paints instantly spread throughout the world, and creative people began studying the properties of the new material. Acrylic began to actively spread in the artistic environment and became firmly entrenched in the fine arts. Charles Pollock was widely known for his technique of splattering liquid household paint onto canvases, called "action painting" as he used the power of his entire body to paint, often in a frenetic dance style. The difference between a thing finished and perfect most often, what is finished is not perfect. The perfect thing may not be finished, because the value of a spiritual, weighty, well-found brushstroke is enormous, etc. [Charles Baudelaire on Art, 1986].

Many stars of modern art worked with acrylic paints: abstract expressionist Mark Rothko, minimalist Alan Charlton, pop art artist Andy Warhol, British pop art artist Bridget Riley, hyperrealist Richard Estes and the brilliant English draftsman and pop artist David Hockney.

Research results

The world of painting has found a new reality with the advent of acrylic paints. Acrylic Paint has quickly gained popularity in a variety of fields: painting, interior design, arts and crafts and beauty. What is good about this polymer material?

Acrylic is a paint based on a water-acrylic dispersion of pigments; it creates a polymer emulsion when combined with water. Through water evaporation or absorption, the paint dries, creates a stable, transparent polymer film filled with colored pigment particles. Pigments are solid substances ground into dust of various origins that give paint its color. Pigments do not dissolve; they are essentially a coloring agent.

Acrylic paint, whether sprayed or extruded from a tube, is a finely balanced dispersion of pigment in an emulsion of acrylic polymer and water. Water serves to preserve the emulsion liquid and prevents the acrylic polymer particles from approaching and fixing to each other. In dry paint, clear polymer particles organize into a stable, hexagonal structure, holding the pigment in place. As a result is a very stable, water-resistant and bright paint film without crack lures — cracks in the paint layer, mainly in oil painting on canvas [Brief Dictionary of Fine Art Terms, 1961].

When drying, the paints become somewhat darker, since the dispersion is initially white, but after the water disappears it becomes transparent. This whitishness lightens the color slightly. When the water leaves the emulsion, the binder hardens, and the color darkens. This process is commonly referred to as wet to dry color change. It is most noticeable in dark transparent pigments such as kraplak and less pronounced in light opaque pigments such as cadmium orange.

Acrylic paint can be applied in a very liquid, diluted form, sprayed, pasted, or in bulk with special thickeners used by artists. Often acrylic is mixed with special additives designed to change the properties of paints, as a result of which acrylic can become translucent, have the properties of an oil, be shiny or completely matte.

Authors must take into account that acrylic dries quickly. As a rule, artists first work with diluted

acrylic using the “wet on” technique. Acrylic is used in a three-layer glazing method, as in oil painting, this will allow you to achieve greater depth and expressiveness. Thick paints are applied under the main painting. Then artist paints on the already diluted paint, but in order to avoid mixing the previous layers, you should wait until each layer has completely dried. The good hiding power and thickness of the paints in an undiluted state allows the use of the impasto oil painting technique in acrylic painting. There is a practice of doing the under painting with acrylics and finishing with oil paints.

It is possible to combine different techniques working with acrylic in one artwork. The using of watercolor lightness and oil body paint layers opens up new opportunities for the artist.

Advantages:

1. Fast drying speed, it usually takes 15-20 minutes. The water presented in the paint quickly evaporates, and a durable-colored film is formed on the surface of the canvas or paper. Artist can rewrite layers of work repeatedly and quickly it means. At the same time, washing off fresh paint with water is not difficult.

2. Excellent adhesion to the surface. Acrylic fits perfectly on various types of materials: paper, cardboard, wood, glass, metal, fabric, plastic or primed surfaces, therefore it is suitable for painting on fabrics and make murals on the walls [14 Famous Murals & street Art Around the World, [www](#)].

3. Increased elasticity. Dried paint retains sufficient flexibility and does not crack over time or crumble. In addition, the paint forms a waterproof, light-resistant surface that is resistant to temperature changes. Therefore, acrylic paintings on textile and leather will retain their original appearance for many years [Which Type of Paint Works Best on Leather?, [www](#)].

4. Lack of toxic components. Due to the water base, the paints are non-toxic and hypoallergenic. Acrylic dyes are absolutely safe for human health and the environment [The Best Zero VOC & Non-Toxic Paints for an Eco-Friendly Home, [www](#)].

5. Variety of textures. Artist, using special gels, glues and pastes, can change the consistency of the paint: from very thick to extremely liquid with adding water or special mediums.

Flaws:

1. Quick drying can also be a disadvantage, there is no opportunity to interrupt work this means.

2. Acrylic paints are darkened after drying, it must be taken into account when painting. It is advisable to wash the brushes immediately after working with acrylic, so the paint does not harden and spoil the materials.

The main positive aspects of working with acrylic influenced the growth of its popularity.

– High drying speed/

The water present in the paint evaporates very quickly, and a durable-colored film is formed on the surface of the canvas or paper. This means you can rewrite layers of work repeatedly and quickly.

– High adhesion, excellent adhesion to the surface/

Acrylic fits perfectly on various types of materials: paper, cardboard, wood, glass, metal, fabric, plastic or primed surfaces.

– Increased elasticity/

– Sufficient flexibility of the dried paint, absence of cracks and craquelures after the paint layer has completely dried, regardless of the period of paint application

– No toxic components/

– Acrylic dyes are absolutely safe for human health and the environment.

– Rich color palette.

Modern manufacturers offer artists a huge range of paint shades to suit every taste.

- Good color mixing.

It is enough for professional artists to have a set of paints from basic colors to obtain an endless number of shades for painting paintings.

- Moisture resistant.

Once the acrylic has dried, it is impossible to wash it off the surface of the painting with water; a special solvent is needed to remove the paint.

- Inertness to aggressive environmental influences.

- Variety of textures.

By adding water or special mediums, the artist can change the consistency of the paint from thick, pasty to extremely liquid.

- Widely used in mixed media.

Acrylic mixes well with many art materials: watercolor, gouache, felt-tip pens.

- No unpleasant odors.

Due to its composition, the paint does not release microscopic aromatic particles into the air when drying.

Conclusion

Artistic creativity unites the people. A person is imbued with deep respect for works of art [Le Corbusier, 1977]. The range of artistic paints is varied: acrylic in cans, aerosols in cans, markers and tubes, as well as additional materials: pastes, mediums, primers and varnishes. Acrylic paints are often used in mixed media, using pastels, felt-tip pens, any other graphic materials, and also on top of a dried acrylic painted surface. It is possible to introduce various composites into acrylic - sand, mica, rice, and so on, to give texture and relief.

Acrylic is a modern universal art material. Having gone a short way from invention and experimental experiments to widespread use today, artistic paints have become a recognized medium for painting. Acrylic allows artist to use both traditional methods in painting and various modernist approaches working with. Artist can mix different styles, look for an individual author's approach in creative searches, and create interesting and varied works of fine art.

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Акриловая живопись в современном изобразительном искусстве

Бугаенко Татьяна Федоровна

Профессор, член союза художников России,
Омский государственный технический университет,
644050, Российская Федерация, Омск, просп. Мира, 11;
e-mail: artistan@bk.ru

Аннотация

Статья посвящена современному художественному средству – акриловым краскам. Универсальное и практичное средство, занявшее лидирующие позиции в изобразительном искусстве, дизайне, полиграфии и отделочных материалах, стало самым популярным средством среди художников в последние десятилетия. Акриловые краски – лучший выбор для творца, если он хочет добиться сочных цветов с богатством тонов и оттенков. Акрил намного ярче акварели и быстрее сохнет, а огромное разнообразие материалов и кистей позволяет художникам создавать настоящие шедевры, которые к тому же долговечны. Художник может рисовать акрилом на холсте, стекле, металле, бумаге, дереве и керамике, что значительно расширяет возможности художника. Акриловые краски могут иметь различную финишную отделку после высыхания. Различают следующие виды: глянцевые, матовые, полуматовые (сатиновые), перламутровые, флуоресцентные, люминесцентные и металлизированные. Особым разнообразием отличаются фактуры акриловых красок, сохраняющие форму и объем после высыхания. Уникальные свойства и характеристики этого материала позволяют художникам решать любые задачи в изобразительном искусстве.

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Ключевые слова

Краска, акрил, живопись, визуальное искусство, декор.

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