

FAQ's with Jane Davies



Q: How do you finish your work? Do you use varnish or a coat of matte medium?

A: I use Golden Polymer Varnish with UVLS, satin finish. However, I have not tried many different varnishes, so I suggest you go to goldenpaints.com and read the information on their various varnish products.

Q: How do you know when your piece is finished?

A: <http://janedavies-collagejourneys.blogspot.com/2014/05/notes-from-studio-in-may-or-how-do-you.html>

Q: How do you mount your paper to wood panel?

A: <http://janedavies-collagejourneys.blogspot.com/2016/04/mounting-on-wood-panel.html>

And: <http://janedavies-collagejourneys.blogspot.com/2012/01/paper-on-wood-panel.html>

Q: What paper do you use?

A: <http://janedaviesstudios.com/favorite-materials/>

Q: What is Cheap Drawing Paper?

A: <http://janedaviesstudios.com/favorite-materials/> You can also use bond paper (copy paper) though it is generally lighter weight than the product I use.

Q: What is the difference between acrylic matte medium and glazing medium/liquid?

A: Go to goldenpaints.com and search each product. The short answer is that matte medium extends (dilutes) the paint without changing its viscosity or consistency. Glazing liquid extends the paint but also (and this is key) keeps it wet longer, giving you more working time. Yes, there are other products you can use for that purpose – extender, OPEN medium (Golden), even glycerin. But glazing medium is what I recommend. I use matte medium for the adhesive and top-coat in collage. Utrecht is my preferred brand because of its consistency.

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Q: Do you prefer fluid acrylics to heavy body acrylics?

A: No. I use both. For smaller work I tend to use more fluids, but I recommend that you use what is comfortable for you. The fluid acrylics (NOT “High Flow”) are better for gel printing.

Q: Why bother spending time or paying attention to the first layer of a painting if you are just going to paint over it?

A: The way I paint, the first layer informs the next marks, which inform the following marks. It is a journey, and each step changes the piece in a way that informs the next move. My paintings get their strength from the many layers I apply.

Q: Do you dilute acrylic paint with water?

A: NO! Not unless you specifically want a watercolor effect. I generally recommend you squeeze the water out of your brush before using it to pick up paint. There are definitely ways to work wet with acrylics, but water changes the character of them significantly, so if you are diluting acrylics with water, do so mindfully and deliberately, not as a default.

Q: Do you worry about composition?

A: No. I don't worry about it. Composition is simply the sum total of the visual content of your piece. I observe composition as the piece develops, and observe the composition of a piece that is finished. But I do not try to conform to particular compositional conventions or rules. See more on this topic in my book, *Abstract Painting: The Elements of Visual Language*. <http://janedaviesstudios.com/books/>

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Q: How do you know if your paint is translucent or opaque?

A: Use it and look at it. If you can see through it, it is translucent. If not, it is opaque. There is more detailed information about this in my book, *Abstract Painting: The Elements of Visual Language*.

Q: Why can't I use craft paints in my work? They are so much cheaper than professional paints!

A: <http://janedavies-collagejourneys.blogspot.com/2014/02/paint-quality.html>

The above gives information on paint qualities. I generally suggest that you get your key colors (favorites + primaries) in a professional quality paint. Supplement those with a student grade paint such as Liquitex Basics or NovaColor (see Favorite Materials).

Q: Do you / will you ever teach in _____ (fill in the blank with your preferred location)?

A: I am happy to consider teaching in a suggested location. What I need is an inquiry or invitation from a venue such as an arts center or workshop organization. If you would like me to teach in your area, please find a venue that has the facilities and infrastructure to offer workshops, and have them e-mail me an inquiry. I always love discovering new places to teach.

Q: Can I get on a wait list for an online workshop?

A: No.