

Matching Wet Paint to Dry Paint & Surface Blending



Color shift is often a concern with acrylic painters, and the drop in values of wet paint to dry paint is frequently cited as one of the disadvantages of using acrylics.

Managing color shift and matching color is easy with Interactive. There is a lot of overpainting done by acrylic artists so painting wet-over-dry is just as important as wet-in-wet blending.

Why Color Shift Occurs In Acrylics

There are two main reasons why color shift occurs.

1. Wet paint looks different from dry paint because of the way light bounces off the surface. When something is wet, it looks glossy and shiny. When something is dry, it looks more matte.
2. The acrylic emulsion is milky when wet but dries transparent. This means that there is already some “white” in the paint straight from the tube that can affect your values. The wet, milky acrylic emulsion “tints” your colors. This is typically noticed in darker, transparent colors.
3. Water, too, affects color. If you use water as your main medium and paint thinly, you will notice more of a shift. You may think that adding clear water could not lighten a color, but you can demonstrate this effect vividly to yourself (see Exploration 1).

How To Manage & Match Wet Paint To Dry Paint

By using a professional, lightfast, artists' quality paint like Interactive, you are already minimizing any wet-to-dry color shift. Furthermore, since you have the ability to rehydrate your paint, you can return your painting back to its wet tonal values. This allows you to easily match wet color on your palette to the wet color on your painting.

Of course, if you want to have your edges of wet paint dry smoothly into your dry paint, you simply use water or the Unlocking Formula to fuse or soften the edges so the “new paint” and the “old paint” merge seamlessly.

Materials:

- Surface – Panel, Paper or Canvas
- Brushes
- Atelier Gesso or Atelier Binder Medium
- Atelier Unlocking Formula
- Atelier Fine Mist Water Sprayer
- Atelier Interactive Professional Artists' Acrylic:
 - Crimson
 - Pthalo Blue (Red Shade)
 - Titanium White

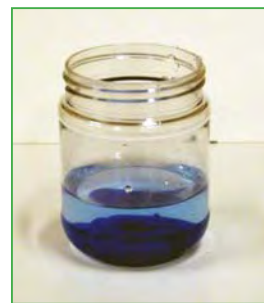


Fiesta Study, Jennifer VonStein

EXPLORATIONS

Exploration 1: Experience How Water Affects Values

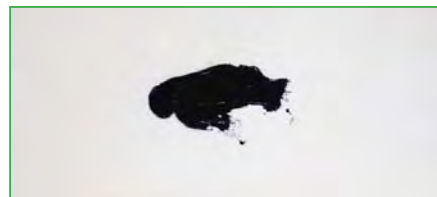
1. Take Pthalo Blue (Red Shade) and place it in a container. Add 2 parts water to 1 part paint.



2. Stir until dissolved.

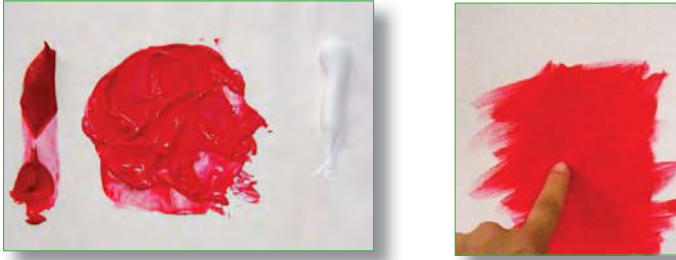


3. Ask yourself whether this wet wash is not considerably lighter than the Pthalo Blue (Red Shade) direct from the tube.

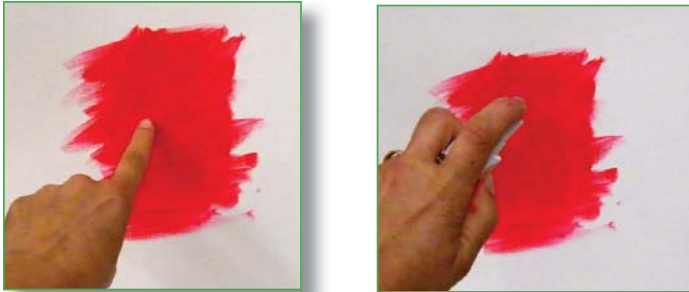


Exploration 2: Matching Color - Wet Color To Dry Color/Adjusting Values

1. On your palette, create a mixture of 80% Crimson and 20% Titanium White. On a surface that has been prepared with Binder Medium or Gesso, paint a swatch. Note the wet color.



2. Wait 10 to 20 minutes or until touch-dry. Using the Fine Mist Water Sprayer filled with water, spray your swatch until your paint is workable. Note how the mixture returns to its light, wet value.



3. Mix a new batch of 80% Crimson and 20% Titanium White on your palette. Compare the new batch to the wet paint swatch. Paint into the wet swatch. Note how easy it was to match the wet color on the palette to the wet swatch.



4. Wait 5 to 10 minutes or until touch-dry. Rehydrate your swatch again until its workable. This time, add more Titanium White into the swatch in order to adjust the tonal value.



Exploration 3: Surface Blending

When you are blending oil paint and you have a thick application of wet paint on the canvas, if you blend into it, the likelihood of producing mud is high because you are mixing into a whole layer of wet paint.

When you are using Interactive, if you wait until your paint tacks up, you will find that you can moisten the surface enough to blend what you want to without disturbing the whole layer of paint.

Surface Blending is a special new attribute that not even oil painters have access to.

1. Use the Crimson and Titanium White swatch from the previous exploration. Make sure it is touch-dry.



2. Using the Fine Mist Water Sprayer filled with water or the Unlocking Formula, spray your swatch until the paint feels workable.



3. In the center, blend in Pthalo Blue (Red Shade) to make a light violet color. Note how you just activate the surface layer, which helps to prevent mud.



Interactive cures in about 7 to 14 days depending on how thickly you paint, your surface, the humidity and the mediums you have used. As your painting goes through the curing cycle, you may need to use the Unlocking Formula to reopen touch-dry paint.

