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Artex Manufacturing Company

Tips for Painting an Exterior Mural using Acrylic Paint

There are three main factors affecting the life of an acrylic mural.

The mural location:

The enemies of a mural are sunlight and moisture. North and East facing murals will last longer than West or South facing murals. Murals should not be painted on retaining walls that have earth behind them as moisture can seep through and may lift the paint or leave mineral deposits.

Proper surface preparation:

Proper surface preparation before you begin painting is the most important factor in insuring a long lasting mural, painting or decorative finish. The surface must be clean and free from any loose or flaking paint. To prepare a previously painted surface, sand or wire brush as needed. Wash with a solution of trisodium phosphate (available at paint stores), rinse and allow to dry. If the wall has shiny paint on it or has been painted with an oil-based paint, be sure to sand thoroughly before priming. Cement, masonry or wood should be primed with one or two coats of acrylic gesso (such as Nova Color Gesso #200) or with a high quality water-based primer. Do not prime with an oil-based paint or oil-based primer unless the manufacturer specifies that it is suitable for use with water-based paints.

The paint must be formulated for exterior use:

Paint intended for exterior use is formulated differently than artists', craft or interior paint.

The acrylic resin in the paint formula is a major factor making the paint suitable for use outdoors. The type of acrylic resin used in paint formulation varies depending of the intended use of the paint. Some fine artists' paint may use a good quality resin but this resin may not be suitable outdoors. These paints may be too soft, weak or water sensitive for use outdoors. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is made with a tough 100% acrylic resin durable for outdoor use.

In addition to the **type of resin** used in the paint, the **amount or percentage of resin** used in the paint formula is important. As a rule, less expensive paints such as low cost house paints or craft paints have only the minimum amount of resin required to make them serviceable. House paint or craft paint is often made with a less expensive and less durable latex or vinyl-latex resin. House paints are designed to last 5-10 years before recoating. With age these paints may become thin, tend to wash off or appear chalky. If you wish to economize by using house paint, use the best quality paint containing

100% acrylic resin.

To minimize color fading due to sunlight you must be alert to the **lightfastness rating** of the pigment used in the paint. Some pigments fade more readily than others. Check your jars or color chart for the lightfastness rating of the colors you plan to use. Lightfastness I is the best rating. Lightfastness III should not be used in direct sunlight.

Pigment and lightfastness information is usually not indicated on house paints or craft paints. The color most likely to fade in less expensive paints is red.

Occasionally colors can fade or react to conditions other than sunlight. New stucco or plaster should be thoroughly cured before painting. Some colors, such as cadmium colors, are very lightfast but can fade in damp or acid rain conditions. A clear topcoat designed for exterior use will help protect against dampness as well as add an extra layer of protection against wear and tear.

All materials used in the mural should be researched before they are used. Materials designed for the construction industry or craft use may not be suitable.

Ideally, painting should be done in a temperature range of 65-85 degrees F. Avoid painting in misty or rainy weather. Painting should not be done late in the day if the night may be misty or freezing before the paint dries.

Adding too much water to the paint can affect the adhesion and shorten the life of your mural. In general, do not add more than 10% water to Nova Color or 5% to house paint.

About Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint

We have been making Nova Color Artists Acrylic Paint since the 1960's. We use a tough, durable, 100% acrylic resin suitable for use outdoors. All paints are labeled with the lightfastness rating.

Nova Color is sold factory direct to the muralist and is available in pints, quarts, gallons and 5-gallon pails. Nova Color is shipped to the USA and Canada.

Please call, write or email for a free color chart and price list.



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General Use: All Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint products are water-based and suitable for use on canvas, paper, fabric, wood, plaster, masonry, fiberglass, many leathers and most non-slick, non-oily surfaces. Nova Color was designed as paint for fine art but is excellent for murals and outdoor uses. For outdoor use check the label for the lightfastness ratings. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is water-soluble when wet; dries permanent and water resistant. Not for use underwater. Thins with water. Overthinning may result in poor adhesion or cloudiness. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint can be mixed with most other brands of water-based paint and water-based tints. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is a heavy creamy fluid with satin to semi-gloss sheen. Consistency and gloss vary by pigment and product. The surface to be painted should be free from oil, silicon residue, dust or loose paint. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint may raise the grain on bare wood. Do not mix with oil paint or solvent paint unless specified by the manufacturer. Surfaces previously painted with oil paint or solvent paint must be thoroughly cured and sanded. Plaster, stucco and concrete should be thoroughly cured for best results. Apply varnishes with care using quick smooth brushstrokes. Do not agitate, brush excessively or brush after the film has begun to dry. If applied by roller, use a short nap roller and check to be sure no foam is created. Apply between 65 to 85 degrees F. Do not apply outdoors during rain, fog or freezing temperatures or at dusk shortly before these conditions occur. Moist or cold conditions may result in cracking or poor paint film formation. Nova Color cleans up with soap and water. Do not allow to dry on brushes and tools.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NOVA COLOR

What is a medium? A medium is a fluid or paste that can be added to paint without decreasing its adhesion.

What is the difference between a gel and a texture paste? A gel dries clear and can be mixed with paint without altering the paint color. Gels are used to create impasto paints. Gels remain flexible. Texture paste is usually used to build up or create relief in an underpainting. Texture paste contains fillers that aid it in holding its shape. Texture paste dries opaque and more brittle than gel. When mixed with paint, texture paste alters the paint color.

Can I use Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint for an outdoor mural? Yes. Acrylic paint is excellent outdoors. Check your jars or color chart for the lightfastness rating of the colors you plan to use. Lightfastness I is the best rating. Lightfastness III should not be used in direct sunlight. Some colors, such as cadmiums, fade in damp or acid rain conditions. A clear topcoat (such as Nova Color #216 Exterior Varnish, #206 Gloss Medium & Varnish or #205 Matte Varnish) will help protect against dampness and add an extra layer of protection against wear and tear.

How do I prepare a wall for painting? Proper surface preparation before you begin your painting is the most important factor in insuring a long lasting mural, painting or decorative finish. The surface must be clean and free from any loose or flaking paint. To prepare a previously painted surface, sand or wirebrush as needed. Wash with a solution of trisodium phosphate (available at paint stores), rinse and allow to dry. Cement, masonry or wood should be primed with one or two coats of acrylic gesso (such as Nova Color Gesso #200) or with a high quality

water-based primer. Do not use acrylic paint over an oil-based paint or oil-based primer unless the manufacturer specifies that it is suitable for use with water-based paints. New wallboard should be sealed according to manufacturer's instructions.

Is Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint waterproof? Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is water-resistant but it is not waterproof. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint should not be used for underwater murals unless entirely sealed with a waterproof topcoat. Retaining walls should be sealed on the opposite side with a waterproof sealer. Painted flowerpots should be sealed on the inside with a waterproof sealer. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint cannot be used on top of a waterproof sealer.

Can I paint clothing and fabric with Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint? Yes. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint adheres very well to cotton, silk, rayon and blends of these fibers. Paint will stiffen the fabric. Nova Color Flex Gel #213 was developed to make Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint feel softer on fabric. Adding water to the paint may cause the color to fade in washing. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is permanent when dry and does not need to be heat set. Hand wash and line dry painted fabrics. Let paint dry five days before the first laundering. Some dry cleaning solvents may affect the appearance or adhesion of acrylic paint. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint can be mixed with most water based fabric paints and fabric painting mediums.

Can I paint Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint on glass?

Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint will not adhere permanently to glass—it can be scraped off.

Can I paint Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint on metal?

Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint may be applied to a properly primed metal. To clean bare metal, wash with vinegar and rinse. Thoroughly sand previously painted metal surfaces. Prime with a metal primer designed to accept water-based acrylic paint.

Can I paint wood items such as furniture with Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint? Yes. New bare wood should be primed with Nova Color Gesso #200 or with a top quality water-based primer designed for bare wood. Previously painted surfaces should be thoroughly sanded and dust-free. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint will not adhere to some oil-treated wood finishes. If your item will get wear and tear, you may want to seal it with a clear topcoat designed for furniture or floors. Bare new wood can be stained with a dilute solution of Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint and water. Water may raise the grain of wood.

Can I paint my wood or concrete deck with Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint? Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint will make colorful decorations and designs but it will scuff more easily than deck paint. You may use a clear topcoat designed for floors on top of your design.

How much water can I add to my acrylic paint? Adding water dilutes the binder (glue quality) that makes the paint stick. Adding 10% water or less will maintain adhesion. In some fine art applications such as watercolor technique or some fine art airbrushing, (where there is no abrasion, washing, or wear and tear), the amount of binder is not as important. If you are painting a wall, a sign or clothing, you will want the binder to remain strong. If you mix any of the clear mediums, varnishes or gels with your color instead of water, the adhesion will remain strong. Adding a clear topcoat over your finished work will also protect any paint layers below that are weak in binder.

What are the best colors for mixing? Good colors for demonstrating color

theory or making a color wheel are as follows: *Yellow*; Hansa Yellow Light #107 or Azo Yellow Medium #144. *Red*; Permanent Carmine #113, Quinacridone Red #129, or Quinacridone Magenta #147. *Blue*; Phthalo Blue #115 or #115-D or Ultramarine Blue #122. Transparent colors tend to give cleaner, brighter mixes than do opaque colors. Opaque colors such as cadmiums, cobalt, and most oxides tend to make dull secondary colors when mixed with each other. Opaque colors are more brilliant when mixed with transparent colors. Check your label or color chart for "opaque" or "transparent" identification.

What is the difference between "opaque", "transparent" and "translucent" colors? Opaque colors tend to blot-out or obscure the color of the surface on which they are applied. Transparent colors tend to "show-through" the surface below. Translucent colors tend to be partially opaque and partially transparent. Pigments are by their nature opaque or transparent. Transparent colors can be made more opaque by the addition of white or other opaque colors or by applying additional coats of paint. Opaque colors can be made translucent by the addition of a clear medium such as Nova Color #204 Matte Medium, #205 Matte Varnish or #206 Gloss Medium & Varnish.

Does "thick" paint contain more pigment? No. Paint can be thickened chemically and thickness may have no relation to the amount of pigment.

What is the difference between Nova Color Titanium White #118 and Gesso #200? Titanium White #118 is heavily pigmented with titanium dioxide white pigment. Nova Color Gesso #200 has less of this white pigment. Gesso #200 also contains calcium carbonate (also known as whiting or marble dust) that gives it a flat (non-shiny) and toothy (faintly gritty) surface. Gesso #200 is also less opaque than Titanium White #118.

How can I remove dried acrylic paint? Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is permanent and can be removed with a paint remover designed to remove latex paint (products such as Goof-off). An alcohol, ammonia and water solution may remove small amounts of paint from tools and brushes. Commercial brush cleaners are also available. Hot soapy water will help remove paint from non-porous surfaces such as glass and plastic.

How can I mix pearlescent colors and not lose the pearlescent quality? Pearlescent colors may be tinted with small amounts of non-pearlescent paint or tints. Avoid using house paint or pastels as they mask the pearl quality. Strong transparent colors work best (such as #109 Carbon Black, #115 or #115D Phthalo Blue, #116 Phthalo Green, #147 Quinacridone Magenta, #103 Carbazole Dioxazine Violet). A pearl surface may also be achieved by mixing a clear topcoat such as #206 Gloss Varnish or #205 Matte Varnish with a small quantity of pearl color. Test this mixture first as the true appearance will not show until it is dry.

What is the difference between latex house paint and Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint? Can I mix Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint with latex house paint? Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is made with 100% acrylic-latex resin. House paint is made with a less expensive and less durable latex or vinyl-latex resin. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint contains a high level of acrylic resin. House paint may have only the minimum amount of resin required to make it serviceable. House paint is designed to "level" after brushing. Artists' paint shows brushstrokes. House paints are usually opaque. Artists' paint can be opaque, transparent or translucent. House paints tend to be pastels or soft colors. Artists' paint is more brilliant and available in a wider range of colors and intensities. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is compatible with water-based latex house

paint. House paint is not recommended for fine art as it is not made to last as long as fine art paints.

How can I create a crackle finish? Paint a base coat of Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint and allow to dry. Paint a coat of mucilage glue onto the base coat and allow to dry until tacky. Apply a second coat of Nova Color. This will crack and expose the base coat through the cracks. Allow to dry. Varnish with Nova Color #205 Matte Varnish or #206 Gloss Medium & Varnish. The design of the cracks will vary with the thickness and color of the paint and the type of brushstrokes used for the paint and glue. Mucilage is generic paper glue.

How can I best store my paint? Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint dries by evaporation so it is important to keep jars capped. Lids and jar threads should be kept free of paint to insure a tight seal. A few drops of purified water can be added to the paint surface before closing. Tap water, soiled brushes and stirrers, reused food jars can introduce bacteria into the paint and cause mold. Clean brushes, tools and storage jars regularly with alcohol, bleach or other disinfectant.

Why is there mold in my jar of paint? Paint contains organic matter that will support mold. The paint contains a preservative that reduces the possibility of mold but does not eliminate mold under all conditions. Bacteria can be introduced into the paint and cause mold through open jars, the addition of tap water, soiled brushes and stirrers, reused food jars. Clean brushes, tools and storage jars regularly with alcohol, bleach or other disinfectant. Keep work areas clean and dry.

General Description: Water based 100% acrylic polymer medium.

Spreading Rate: Approximate coverage

Gallon	240-320 square feet
Quart	60-80 square feet
Pint	30-40 square feet

Paint coverage varies depending on the absorbency of the surface and the method of application. Raw canvas, stucco, cement and rough wood will get low coverage. Gessoed and previously painted surfaces will get high coverage. Allow extra paint when mixing colors. Theoretical spreading rate @ 1 mil dry film thickness is 600 square feet per gallon.

Hide: Degree of hiding power depends on the pigment used. Colors may be opaque, translucent or transparent. Check opacity chart.

Drying Time: Air dry @ 70 degrees F & 50% R.H.: Dry to touch: 1/2 - 1 hour. Dry to recoat: 3 hours minimum.

% Non Volatile (Solids): By weight 45-50% By volume 35-40%

Volatile Organic Compounds (V.O.C.): 250 grams per liter maximum.

2.08 pounds per gallon. V.O.C. per color available.

Application Methods: *Brush:* No reduction necessary. *Roller:* Up to 10% reduction with water if necessary. *Spray:* Air sprayer--reduce 20%-25% with water. Airless sprayer--no reduction necessary; .013"-.016" tip @ approx. 2,000 PSI. To check adhesion, apply a test patch and allow to dry for 36 hours. Check by scraping.

Nova Color has been reviewed by a toxicologist and conforms to federal labeling requirements for art materials. Nova Color is labeled "no health hazard label required" with the exception of the cadmium colors, which are labeled "Contains: cadmium pigment. Do not spray apply".

Lightfastness rating according to the American Society for Testing and Materials D4302 Test Methods for Lightfastness of Pigments used in Artists Paint: I=Excellent II=very good III=does not conform to ASTM D4302
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