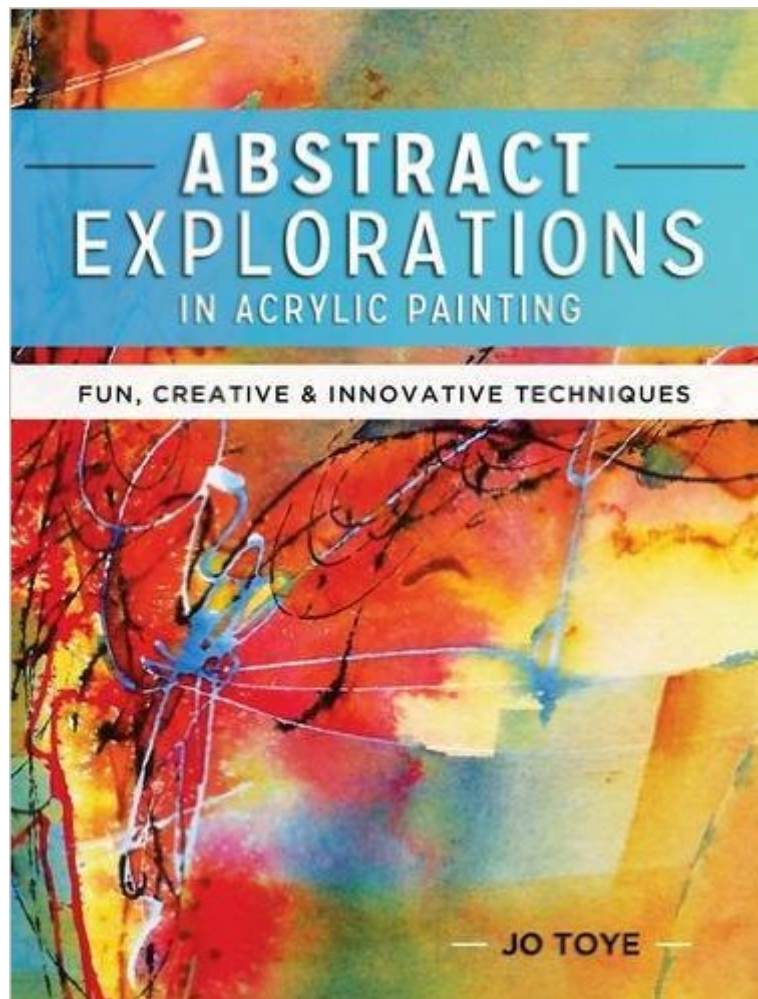


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# Abstract Explorations In Acrylic Painting: Fun, Creative And Innovative Techniques



## Synopsis

Discover abstract painting with acrylics! "If you approach your art with a playful attitude you will be more apt to keep making art, and the more art you make, the better your art will be." --pg. 10 Like a diving board for creativity, *Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting* will help you plunge joyfully into artmaking. With the belief that an attitude of playfulness is key to artistic growth, award-winning acrylic artist Jo Toye leads you on an engaging workshop-style adventure filled with innovative techniques, inventive approaches and breakthrough results. **Work Small.** Start by discovering how working on a small canvas yields big payoffs. When you don't have anything to lose but a few minutes and a little piece of paper, you'll find that you paint more fearlessly, absorb new concepts faster and enjoy yourself more. **Step-by-Step Instruction.** Learn what tools Toye finds most useful in making art, along with 17 step-by-step demonstrations showing how to use them to best effect. **Start-to-Finish Painting Projects.** At the heart of the book, 8 start-to-finish painting projects put it all together. Discover fresh takes on stenciling, sponging, making and working with gesso. Use razor blades and applicator bottles to create distinctive linework. Achieve wonderfully original patterns using resist pens, mouth atomizers and India ink. Experiment with Clear Tar Gel, pour paint with pipettes, work over top a "failed" painting...all yielding brilliantly original results. Heavily illustrated and filled with exciting ideas you won't find anywhere else, *Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting* will inspire you to paint, experiment, play...and come away with some of your best work yet!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a wonderful find! I've been searching for a book such as this for quite some time. I am a

self-taught artist since grade school, but life and other such things happened and I walked away from painting. Enter Bruce Lee...he came to me in a lucid dream where as soon as I saw him, I feigned a karate chop at him. He silently shook his head 'no' while smiling, took me by the hand and led me back to a table full of paints, brushes and a half finished painting. Could his message have been, "Don't fight it, go back to painting." ??? So, my internet search for acrylic abstract instruction led me to Jo Toye's book, *Abstract Explorations*. Oh my...it is exactly the instruction I've been looking for. And I can tell it's blooming my inner artist once again because her very first, simple task is to mix violet with acrylic glaze medium and play with that a bit. And did I play! I played for longer than I ought to and was late for work! I couldn't stop playing. Being a writer, I thought that was how I emoted, but being on the verge of a traumatic breakup, I unleashed much of what I'd been holding inside me as 'therapeutic painting'. Oh, the feeling was cathartic and wonderful. So, if you're like me and have a gazillion art instruction books on your shelves that are dusty and sadly unused, buy Jo Toye's book and allow it to unleash your fiery, inner Artist Warrior too !

I am an abstract artist and I HIGHLY recommend *Abstract Explorations in Acrylic Painting*. I have purchased hundreds of art books and this book is one of the best I have ever purchased because it provides detailed step-by-step directions that you can follow. In a recent exercise I followed there were 19 steps in the process and at the end I felt like I had been in a class learning the process. In many art books, I try to follow the steps and often wonder how the artist went from step 4 to 5 as many things seem to be missing. In this book, there are complete details. In addition, she uses innovative techniques like painting with a razor and provides tips for being successful, avoiding making a mess and a variety of different techniques to try. You will find creative ways to make glue gun stencils, use make-up sponges, paint with pipettes, masking fluid, atomizers and tar gel. I learned to use glazing medium with gesso which was a new technique for me that I will use in the future. The book is written with humor in an easy to understand manner. Jo's book has amazing paintings and tutorials that have inspired me and pushed my creative envelope. This is a must have book for all abstract artists or anyone interesting in trying their hand at abstract art. I have attached a picture of an exercise I created following the techniques in the book.

this was a very easy book to follow. I had a specific problem and it provided me with an answer. I believe in serendipity and this book was just what I needed when I bought it. I've been working with the book now for a few weeks. I want to add that these techniques require practice for me. Don't get frustrated and give up, but do work small at first. I have worked with abstract shapes and colors for

years but find myself learning more each time I paint using these techniques. I think one of the best pieces of advice she gives is to write down what works and what doesn't and include a picture or the practice piece. Great book!!!

Great book. I got my copy of this book Thursday and I have read it and re-read it. And, I am starting to try out the ideas/techniques. It is well written, very good photos and descriptions. Great ideas. I am a watercolor artist and was not sure about doing abstracts and acrylic. BUT, I will definitely add this to my artwork. The cover says "fun, creative and innovative techniques" and that is a good description. There are a lot of ideas and techniques shown and step by step demos. Also, it is not overdone in descriptions as there are a lot of photos to go along with each of the techniques. So many art books go on and on without photos, or have photos but no descriptions. This book has a perfect combination of written description and photos. We are visual people and this does it perfectly. Very very well done. I give a full 5 stars and highly recommend buying it.

I had the pleasure to actually go through the techniques in this book with Jo Toye herself. I loved Jo's work and she graciously agreed with a one-on-one instruction, which was a unique and enriching experience. Jo showed and taught me most of the techniques in the book and even though was a lot to cover, her teaching was so effective and the work so captivating that time literally flew! I walked away with some very awesome tools to use in my artwork, that I'm sure will add another element of freedom and creativity. Jo is passionate and detail oriented, and that is truly contagious whether you're in her class or follow her book instructions. I highly recommend her book to anyone interested to learn something new, or perfect something similar with Jo's techniques. But also explore the freedom of being off the beaten path, which is what Jo truly loves. Thank you Jo for sharing that freedom with us!

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