

Acrylics - A Brief History

Acrylic paint is relatively new art material, created and popularised in the twentieth century. The earliest versions were developed for industrial use in the 1930s by the German chemical company BASF, made from an acrylic resin dispersion. In 1946, American artist and paint manufacturer Sam Golden (*the later founder of Golden Acrylics*) and his uncle, the artist Leonard Bocour, developed an acrylic, plastic based paint known as Magna Paint in New York. In contrast with oils, it had a synthetic vibrancy of colour and a glossy finish; these qualities made acrylic paint popular with a new brand of experimental artists searching for ways to break with tradition in favour of modernity. Water based acrylics were later invented in the 1950s and have remained popular since.

The Colours and Light of Spirit

Some of the first artists to experiment with acrylic paint were the Abstract Expressionists of the 1950s and 1960s, who embraced the versatility of acrylic paint, applying its characteristically bold colours in loose washes or impasto areas of texture. American painter Helen Frankenthaler poured diluted washes of bold colour onto unprimed canvas, letting it soak deep into the core of the fabric and lend it a glowing luminosity, as seen in *Saturn*, 1962. She wrote, *'There are no rules. That is how art is born, how breakthroughs happen.'*

Acrylic paint continued to prove popular with many American abstract artists of the 1960s, including the Colour Field Painters Morris Louis, Jules Olitski and Barnett Newman, who, like Frankenthaler, invested an inner, spiritual light into their canvases. This language was expanded into three-dimensions by American sculptor Anne Truitt, who transformed her totemic, wooden structures into columns of light by applying layer upon layer of acrylic paint.

Acrylic and Pop Art

Acrylic paint was a popular choice for Pop Artists throughout the 1950s and 1960s. In contrast with the Abstract Expressionists, who embraced the spirituality of colour, Pop artists instead sought to replicate the vivid, eye-catching colours of popular culture and advertising with acrylic paint's bold synthetic flatness.



*Helen Frankenthaler -
'Saturn' 1962 - Acrylic
washes on Canvas*

SOME KEY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ACRYLIC PAINTING:



- **1901**
German chemist Otto Rohm develops the first synthetic acrylic resin
- **1934**
BASF, a German chemical company, develops the first usable acrylic resin dispersion
- **1940s**
Acrylic emulsions become popular for home painting because they are easy to use, dry quickly, and are less toxic than other paints
- **1946–1949**
Leonard Bocour and Sam Golden develop a line of artists' acrylic paints called Magna
- **1955**
Permanent Pigment Company develops the first water-based acrylic gesso, named Liquitex
- **1956**
Permanent Pigment Company releases their first water-based fluid acrylic paints
- **1960s**
UK art supplier George Rowney introduces the brand "Cryla," and artist's acrylic colour
- **1985 to Date**
The history of Jo Sonja paints begins with the collaboration between Jim Cobb and Jo Sonja Jansen in 1985. Cobb was the Director of Chroma, a company that provides creative solutions for artists. The collaboration combined Chroma's technology with Jo Sonja Jansen's artistic tradition to create Jo Sonja's Decorative Painting System. The system was designed to meet the needs of serious artists, offering flexibility and long-lasting products. Jo Sonja paints are known for their quality and versatility. They are made with pure pigments and are water-based, so they are safe to use and easy to clean up. Jo Sonja paints can be used on a variety of surfaces, including wood, glass, fabric, and walls. The paints also come with mediums that allow artists to control them in different conditions.
- **2003 to Date**
Mont Marte, an art supply company, was founded in Brisbane, Australia by Bob, Carol, and Cheyne Kent: Early years: The company began as an import business selling hardware and garden products to variety stores. In 2003, the founders discovered the art world when a shipment of garden stones was too heavy for a full container, so artist's canvases were used to top it up. The name "Mont Marte" was chosen because it signifies art, but is also Australian. Mont Marte has grown from a small family business to a company that supplies art tools to over 95 countries.
Online store: In 2022, Mont Marte launched its first online store.
Global presence: Mont Marte has established subsidiaries in China, the United States, and Australia:
Free art lessons: In 2010, Mont Marte began publishing free art lessons on their website.

Acrylic paint became a central part of modern art movements, including pop art, abstract expressionism, and photorealism. Acrylic paint's popularity grew due to its unique properties, including:

- Drying time: Acrylic paint dries much faster than oil paint, allowing artists to work faster and layer paint
- Versatility: Acrylic paint can produce a range of effects, from watercolour-like softness to oil paint-like sharpness
- Water resistance: Acrylic paint is water-resistant when dry



That First Acrylic Painting - Acrylic on stretch canvas - DM Christie© 1978- **SOLD 1978**



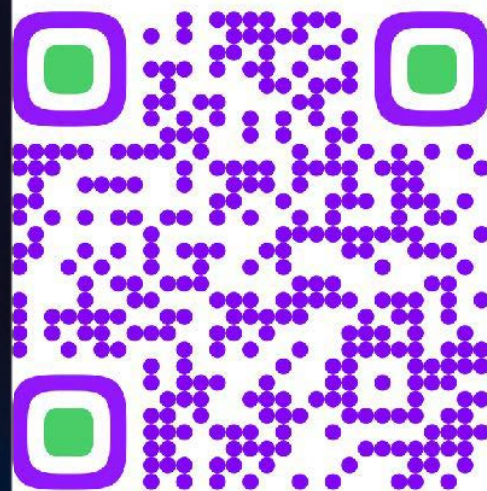
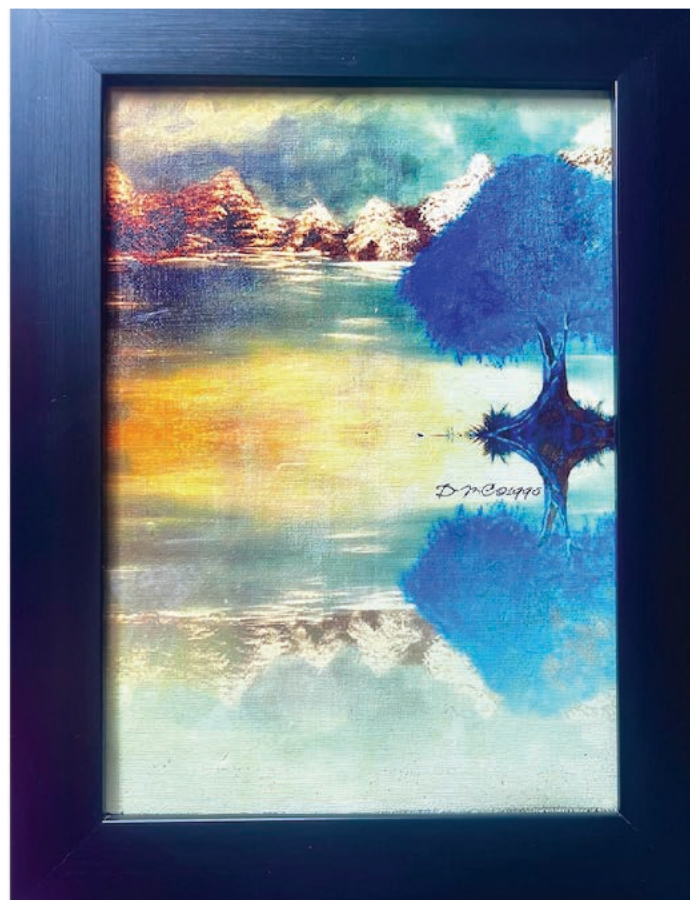
'My Blue Faerie Wren'
Acrylic and Watercolours on Art Cartridge - DM
Christie © 1993



The Mystic - Acrylic, Ink and Watercolour wash on
Art Cartridge - DM Christie© 1998 - **SOLD 1998**



My Mixed up Pride - Acrylic and Ink on A3 Flat Panel Canvas - DM Christie© 2017



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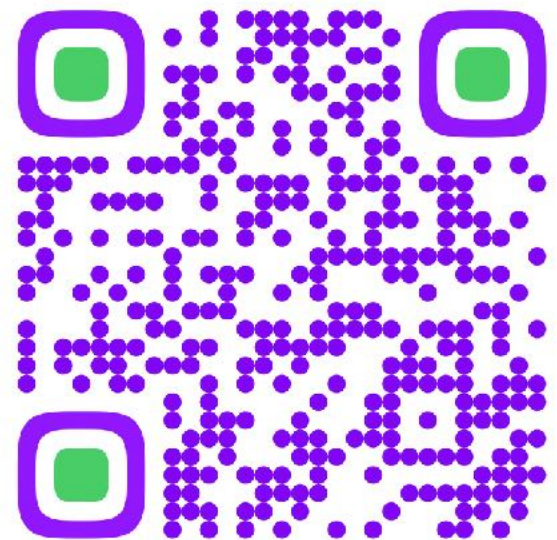
The Jacaranda Blues-DMC©1995
Acrylic & Inks on A4 flat panel canvas - Black Wood Free
Standing Frame - **SOLD 2024**

Acrylic paint can be mixed with so many other art mediums and used on limitless supports and objects (*experimenting is one of my all time favourite things*) and many incredible effects have appeared by pushing the boundaries and thinking outside the box and stated usage instructions.

Ensuring your chosen support (***no matter what it is***) is prepared properly from the start will ensure the art created lasts a lifetime and beyond.

To learn how to create with and immerse yourself in the history of this fascinating and so versatile medium and other mediums that can be used in conjunction with Acrylic Paints:

Book your One on One Guided Tuition



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'I am SHE' - acrylic house paint and black permanent marker on
4Ft x 2.5 foot Hardboard Panel - DM Christie© 1992

D M Christie
Artist/Designer



Dahut Creations by Waterwench© 1978 to Date

 <https://dahutcreations.com>

@ dahut@dahutcreations.com

 Perth - Western Australia

Tuition Price & Times

Acrylics and Mixed Mediums - 3 Hours - One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	1. 10am to 1pm Other days/times available on request	\$50-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring

Sublimation Print & Print Making - 3 Hours - One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	10am to 1pm Other days/times available on request	\$45-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring

Crafting - 3 Hours - One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	10am to 1pm Other days/times available on request	\$30-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring

Crafting Machines & Vinyls - 3 Hour - One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	10am to 1pm Other days/times available on request	\$45-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring

Encaustics & Oils - 3 Hours- One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	9.30am to 11.30am Other days/times available on request	\$55-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring

Encaustics & Resin - 3 Hours- One on One Tuition - Information

Day	Times	Cost	Information
Mondays To Fridays	9.30am to 11.30am Other days/times available on request	\$55-00 per person	All materials provided unless advised. i.e themed workshops advertised when occurring