

Atelier Mediums

Atelier Mediums are made from the highest quality acrylic polymers and binders. They are 100% compatible with all good quality acrylics.

Atelier Interactive can be used for standard acrylic painting techniques or kept open for longer blending time without the use of any special mediums - all you really need is water. However mediums can greatly enhance the versatility of the paint, making some techniques much easier, enjoyable and successful.

When using mediums with Atelier Interactive special consideration

needs to be given as to how they change the way the paint dries.

One group of mediums contains a traditional acrylic binder that tends to dry quickly and forms a tough waterproof skin - we refer to these as **Traditional Mediums**.

The other type are the **Interactive Mediums** which maintain or enhance the unique drying properties of the paint, allowing it to remain workable for even longer. These mediums give best results when used with Atelier Interactive - they can be mixed with standard acrylics but their effectiveness will be reduced.

Traditional Mediums

Dry fast & waterproof for standard acrylic techniques.



Gloss Medium

A general purpose mid viscosity medium that adds translucency and increases gloss. Ideal for glazing and extending colours. Promotes flow and levelling. Can be mixed with the paint as a medium or used to seal a paint layer before overpainting.



Glazing Liquid (Gloss)

A low viscosity medium perfect for creating translucent glazes. Slightly extends open time and is waterproof when dry. Mix with paint for added translucency with a rich oil-like gloss sheen. Promotes flow and levelling.



Fast Medium/Fixer

A low viscosity medium used for thin fast drying layering techniques. It can also be used on its own to seal and reinforce a paint layer in preparation for scratch back, glazing or varnishing.

Gels



Regular Gel (Gloss)

An acrylic gel with a smooth buttery consistency. Use as a paint extender to adjust gloss and transparency without altering consistency. Mix with paint to increase body or apply directly on top of paint layer for a transparent textural effect. Holds moderate peaks and texture for impasto effects. Ideal for glazing. Milky colour becomes transparent when dry.



Heavy Gel (Gloss) Previously called Impasto Gel

A thick, fast drying, waterbased acrylic gel, designed to exaggerate structure and sharpen textural edges of the paint. It can be used as a very strong adhesive for bonding heavy objects. Can be mixed with the paint, overpainted once dry, or applied on top of a paint layer for a transparent textural effect.



Moulding Paste Previously called Modelling Compound

A very thick and textural paste made from calcite grit. It has the same flexibility as the paint and is used to create strong textural interest at any stage in a painting's process. Dries white and can be mixed with the paint to produce a coloured ground, or painted over once dry.

Interactive Mediums

Maintain or enhance the re-wetting properties of Interactive



Clear Painting Medium

A mid viscosity medium that allows paint to be diluted smoothly for glazing and blending techniques without altering sheen level. It has a high water content and will allow Atelier Interactive to remain workable for longer without the need to use a water sprayer.



Slow Medium

Extends wet-in-wet blending time and is designed to be used in conjunction with a water sprayer. It will tack up quite quickly but is very easily made workable again with the water sprayer. It is preferable to use a water sprayer to extend blending time, rather than adding more medium because if too much medium is added the paint will become tacky.



Thick Slow Medium

Works in the same way as the more fluid Slow Medium, but with its more paint like consistency it can be used for spreading and diluting paint without making it too thin or runny.



Liquefying Medium

Is a low viscosity acrylic extender. For fine detail, stir into paint creating a 50/50 mixture or until desired viscosity is reached. For airbrush techniques, mix in small amounts and stir until an ink-like consistency is reached which suits your airbrush.

Additives



Retarder

A paint additive designed to slow down the drying time of acrylic paint. It may be added to other Atelier mediums to increase open time. Note: Retarder does not contain a binding agent so to avoid creating an unstable mixture, it is recommended to mix no more than 10% with acrylic paints.



Unlocking Formula

Allows artists to re-open Atelier Interactive even after it is touch-dry. Once the paint is re-opened, new paint can be blended back in, existing paint edges can be feathered or whole sections can be removed with a rag to reveal under layers. Spray apply using the Atelier Fine Mist Water Sprayer.

Atelier Mediums Guide: Surface Prep & Varnishes

Surface Prep

Surface Preps are products used to prepare a surface for painting. Effective grounds should have good adhesion to the painting surface. They should be flexible, have suitable "tooth" for overpainting and create a good sealing barrier between the painting surface and subsequent layers of paint.



Binder Medium

A waterbased acrylic emulsion, which can be used straight from the bottle or thinned with water 1:1 to seal most surfaces. Atelier Binder Medium can be used as a sizing on canvas or cotton duck to seal the surface and prevent absorption of paint into the fabric. Mix with paint to dilute colour without losing intensity. Use neat between dry paint layers to seal or mix with Atelier Interactive for fast drying acrylic techniques.



Gesso Primer

A flexible acrylic ground with a high grit content designed to provide a stable white surface on which to paint. Atelier Gesso may be used directly from the container for all over thick textural effects.



Liquid Gesso Primer

Has a thinner consistency which spreads more easily for a smoother painting surface.

Varnishes

Final Varnishes are used to protect the completed painting and to adjust the surface quality of the paint. If your painting is too shiny or matte, you can correct the surface by choosing the appropriate varnish.



Chroma Solvent Finishing Varnishes

Non-yellowing, self-leveling strippable varnishes which allow a painting to be cleaned more easily at a later date by swabbing with mineral turps. Chroma Solvent Finishing Varnishes are available in Satin, Gloss and Invisible. Invisible Varnish provides a protective coating and does not alter the surface quality of a painting. We recommend using Chroma Solvent Finishing Varnishes with Atelier Interactive paintings.



Matte, Satin & Gloss Acrylic Varnish

Previously called Medium & Varnish

Low viscosity products made from hard acrylic emulsion.

Can be used as an over-varnish for Atelier Interactive and other traditional acrylic paints. To use as a varnish over an Interactive painting seal with 2 coats of Fast Medium/Fixer before varnishing. They are non-removable, however they can be over painted. The acrylic varnish may be mixed with acrylics as a low viscosity medium to change the sheen levels or to dilute for glazing. Atelier Interactive will dry fast and waterproof if used in this way.

Water Sprayer



Though technically not a medium the water sprayer can be a very powerful tool, allowing artists to control the drying speed of their paint. When you need more time for wet blending, a light misting of water can keep Atelier Interactive wet for as long as you like.

To use a water sprayer successfully follow these simple instructions.

What kind of sprayer?

The sprayer must deliver a FINE mist of water. We recommend the Atelier Fine Mist Water Sprayer.

Note: For larger works you may need to up-size your sprayer in which case be sure to get one that delivers a fine mist of water and not a jet of heavy droplets.

When to spray?

As the paint starts to dry you will feel your brush begin to drag. This means it is time to spray if you want to keep the paint wet and workable.

How to spray?

Hold the bottle back about 30cm from the painting and lightly mist the area you want to keep wet. The painting surface should not be physically disturbed by the water droplets so if you are getting large droplets or big dribbles then you are spraying too much.

What if the paint won't re-wet?

After the paint has just dried it can still be reactivated with water but after about an hour, depending on the climate and paint thickness, you will need to use Unlocking Formula in your water sprayer to re-wet the paint.



Note. US product shots are shown.

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