Wings of Flight Distance Mural Kit

Welcome to your Wings of Flight Mural Kit! You will be painting a part of a mural on poly-tab mural fabric. When you and your compatriots have painted all the pieces, they will be installed as a public mural for everyone to enjoy!

STEPS:

Step 1) Mix your colors (in class on Nov 19th or 20th)
Step 2) Paint your Mural Fabric feathers. Let dry completely.
Step 3) Cut out your feathers cleanly with no extra mural fabric around it.
Step 4) Reroll feathers and secure with rubber band that came with them.
Step 5) Return all materials (painted mural fabric, brushes, left over paint, and the box it arrived in) to ArtStart for re-use and installation!

SOME NOTES:

The mural fabric that you will be painting on should not be crimped on crinkled.
DO NOT CREASE THE MURAL FABRIC
It has arrived to you in a roll, and should be returned in this form, but the roll should not be squished, squashed, or scrunched – creases in the poly-tab fabric make it more challenging to install and can have a negative aesthetic impact on the overall appearance of the mural.

The paints and materials that you will need for your painting are included in this kit. You will need to provide a water container and palette.

When you have finished with your painting, please carefully cut out your mural piece as close to the edge of your painting as possible.

For more information about how to get started, visit https://www.artstart.us/student-tutorials to view video tutorials, find examples, get reference images, see varied examples of completed work, and read tailored tutorials on how to paint the design you have received in your kit.

General Directions:

Setting up:

Most of the things you will need are included in this kit, but there are several extra things you will need to have on hand…

1) **A water container** for rinsing your brush as you paint. Large yoghurt container or equivalent is ideal – anything can work so long as it will not be used for food afterward, as some of the paint pigments are bad news to ingest.

2) **A paint mixing palette** This can be any flat, non-absorbent surface not used for food

3) **A flat place to paint** – If you do not have a work space that will accommodate your piece of poly-tab, a rigid piece of cardboard makes an excellent temporary backing. Just attach your mural fabric with masking tape and you will be good to paint. While working, be sure that the poly-tab is not crimped or creased. Though it is made of a non-woven polyester fabric, it is similar to paper in that creases are not removable.

4) **Drop cloth (optional)** It can be good to have a means of preventing paint from getting on surfaces that you would like to protect (desk/floor/chair/everything you own). A drop cloth (or equivalent, like an old sheet, plastic garbage bag, or similar) can protect desk/floor/home from paint spills and splatters

Beyond this, your kit contains:

5) **Paint** – The paint included in this kit is a professional-quality acrylic paint formulated for murals. That means that it is highly pigmented, and will take a very long time to fade in the sun compared to most other acrylic paints.

   The paint comes to you in small containers. It may not look like much, but a little bit of this paint goes *a long way* – so long as you ***don't let it dry out***. If it becomes thick, add and mix in a small amount of clean water until it loosens to the consistency that you like to use. When you are not moving paint from the container onto your palette, keep the containers sealed at all times. Additionally, store the containers in the provided re-sealable bag – this will help your paints to store for much longer without drying out. Don't wait to start painting.

6) **Brushes** – several brushes in several sizes have been included with the kit. If you have brushes of your own, feel free to use those as well.

7) **Mural Fabric** – the mural fabric (poly-tab) piece/s included with this kit has been prepared with gesso ("jess-oh") and is ready to accept acrylic paint.

8) **Color Swatches** – We are mixing four very unique and specific colors. For this reason, we have included a bundle of cards with the colors painted onto them, so that you have the most accurate color reference possible to match to.

9) **Empty paint containers** – These are included so that you can mix your four colors and then store them if you aren't able to finish all of your feathers in one sitting.

10) **The Kit Box** – this is a place to store and organize all of the pieces that have come with the kit. Please retain **all** materials for re-use by other mural painters. When you have finished painting, please place all your materials and tools back in the kit box to be returned to ArtStart.

Mixing Your Colors:

We will be mixing four specific colors, which, for the purposes of this project, I have named:

1. Forest Green

2. Sage Green

3. Blue Sage Green

4. Baby Blue

These colors are all built off of one another, meaning that you have to mix color no. 1 first, then use that color as your base for color no. 2, etc.

You will mix these colors in the empty paint containers in your kit. Mix forest green, use it, then scoop some of the forest green into container number 2, and add the noted additional hues to produce color number 2. Take a scoop of color number 2, place it in container 3, add the extra colors to get color number 3, and so on.

It is important that these colors match the color swatches in your kit. I recommend getting a space piece of paper, and placing the color swatches in a row along the edge, so that you can test your mixed colors right next to the swatch, but not on it.

Keep in mind: these paints slightly darken when they dry. Wait until your sample on the paper dries before deciding whether to add more white, etc.

Once you have mixed your colors, cap them immediately so that they do not dry out.

The colors in your kit:

1. Titanium white. Each color you are mixing is mostly white. When mixing your colors, add small amounts of other pigments to your white, instead of white to your pigments. This will ensure that you have enough white.

2. Azo yellow

3. Ultramarine blue

4. Cadmium red medium

5. Paynes grey. This looks black, but it is a very deep, bluish gray.

6. Oxide green

7. Deep green. This also looks black, and may at first be hard to distinguish from the Paynes Grey, but if you dab one and smear it on paper or even on your hand, Deep Green will have a distinct emerald halo.

Color formulas:

Forest Green contains: Green oxide, deep green, titanium white, azo yello, cad red med, paynes grey

Sage Green contains: Forest green, add ultramarine blue and white

Blue Sage Green contains: sage green, add ultramarine blue, paynes grey, and white

Baby Blue contains: blue sage green, add ultramarine blue, a touch of cadmium red medium, and white

Painting your feathers:

There are three different color arrangements for the feathers in these wings. You will be painting at least one of each.

The feathers in your kits will all have a pair or series of three letters and numbers on the back. These labels range from R1 through R10, L1 through L10, SR1 through SR10, and SL1 through SL10. R = Right wing, L = Left wing. S = small (the wings at being installed at Artstart will be about half the size of the pair being installed at RVCS) and the numbers 1 through 10 correspond to the feather's shape, size, and placement within the wing. These labels will tell you which color arrangement to paint the feather. The letters will help us at Artstart place the feathers when assembling the wings, but you only need to worry about the numbers.

Color Arrangement 1: Any label containing 1, 2, or 3, will be painted with **Forest Green** as the dark/shadow, and baby blue as the light/highlight.

Color Arrangement 2: Any label containing 4, 5, or 6, will be painted with **Sage Green** as the dark/shadow, and baby blue as the light/highlight.
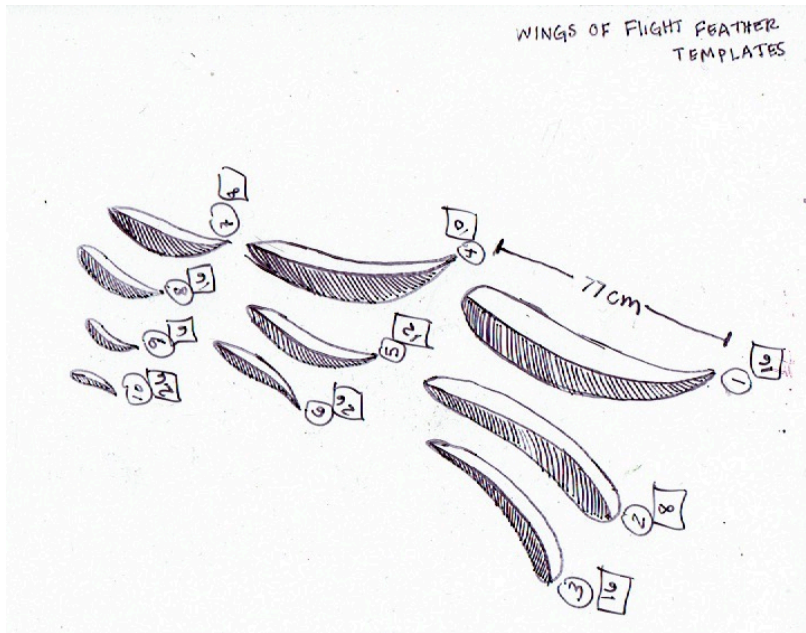
Color Arrangement 3: Any label containing 7, 8, 9, or 10, will be painted with **Blue Sage Green** as the dark/shadow, and baby blue as the light/highlight.

Once you have selected the correct colors for your feather, the painting process is relatively simple:

1. You will see that one side of the midline of your feather is shaded in. This indicates the part of your feather that you will paint with the "dark" color (listed above, based on label number).

2. The part on the other side of the midline will be painted with your "light" color, which is always Baby Blue.

3. Once you have filled in these fields with your "dark" and your "light", you will add in feather details. We have timelapse videos showing how to paint these details, as well as a document with images of suggested variations, on our website. These details will be done with both of the colors you have already used, as well as a color that is darker

than the "dark" you used on this feather. That means that for labels containing 1, 2, or 3, you will add a bit more Deep Green to a dab of your Forest Green, and use that for your dark details.

Identifying your feathers: below is the full list of feather templates. The number in the circles is the number of template (1-10), and shows which direction your feather details should be slanted. Most detail lines slant towards the pointed end, but **template numbers 2 and 3 are the exceptions.** Be mindful of this and make sure that you are painting the grain of the feather correctly.

Steps for Painting Each of Your Feathers:

Color Arrangement 1 (labels containing 1, 2, or 3)

Step 1: Paint the shaded side of the feather with your mixed Forest Green. Important: before covering the shading marks, please take note of which direction those marks are slanted in (which end of the feather are they pointing towards? Take a picture on your phone if it will help you remember, or draw an arrow on the poly tab margin to remind yourself) it is vital that your painted feather details match the direction of these marks, so that all of the feathers fit together properly at the end.

Step 2: Paint the non shaded part of the feather with your mixed Baby Blue.

Step 3: Use your Forest Green mixed with a little extra Deep Green to paint the dark detail lines on top of the Forest Green half of the feather

Step 4: Use your Forest Green to paint the dark detail lines on the Baby Blue half of the feather.

Step 5: Mix a lighter version of the green you mixed in step 3 (add more forest green to what you mixed to make it a bit lighter), and use this mid tone (midway between straight forest green and the deep green-forest green mix you used for the dark detail lines) to add more dimension to the detail on the dark half of the feather.
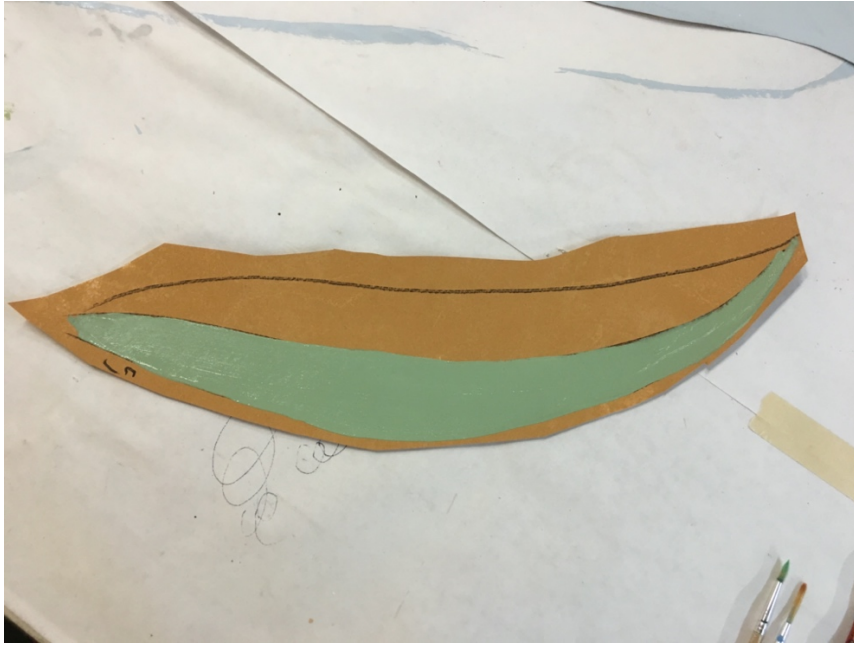

Step 6: Use your Baby Blue to add some highlights to the dark/forest green half of the feather.

Color Arrangement 2 (labels containing 4, 5, and 6)

Step 1: Paint the shaded side of the feather with your mixed Sage Green. (Note the direction of the shade marks)

Step 2: Paint the non shaded side of the feather with your mixed Baby Blue.

Step 3: Use your Mixed Forest Green to add the dark feather details. Refer to the Feather Detail Example sheet for guidance and ideas. **Important:** the grain of the feather details should be in going in the same direction as the shade marks that were on your feather before you started painting.

Step 4: Add a little deep green to your forest green and add some darker lines to your feather details on the dark/green side of the feather.
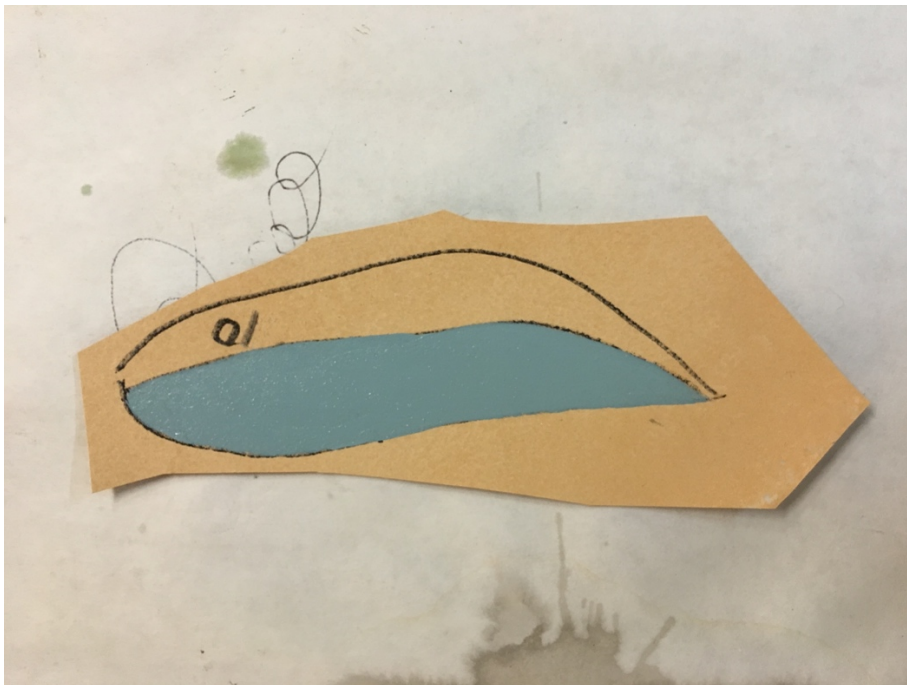
Step 5: Use Baby Blue to add highlights to the dark/sage green side of the feather.
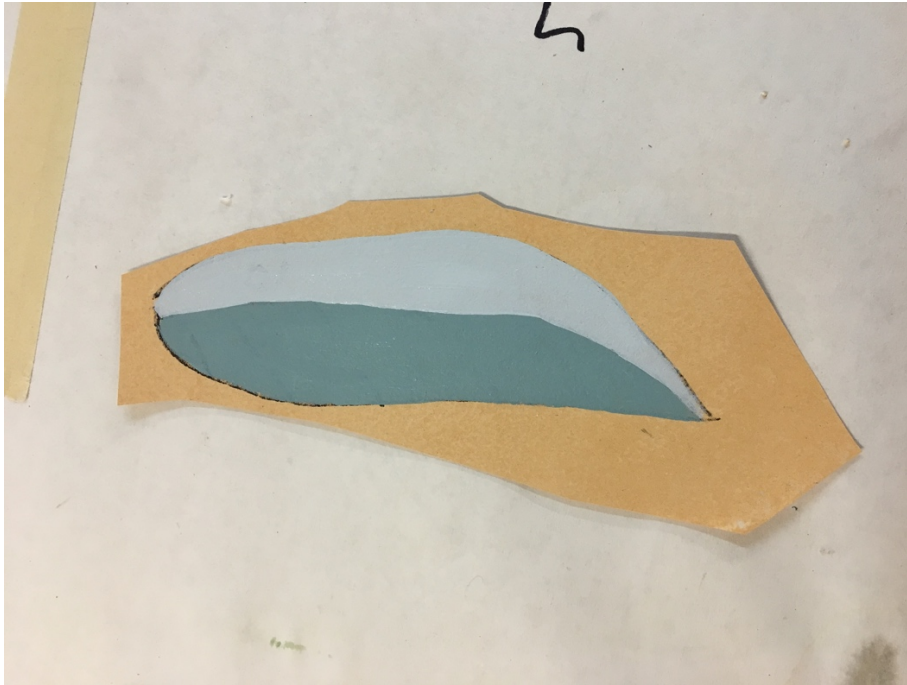

Color Arrangement 3 (labels containing 7, 8, 9, and 10)

Step 1: Paint the shaded side of the feather with your mixed Blue Sage Green. (Note the direction of the shade marks)

Step 2: Paint the nonshaded side of the feather with your mixed Baby Blue.

Step 3: Mix some of your Blue Sage Green with a little extra Paynes Grey, and use that dark color to paint feather details on the dark side of the feather.
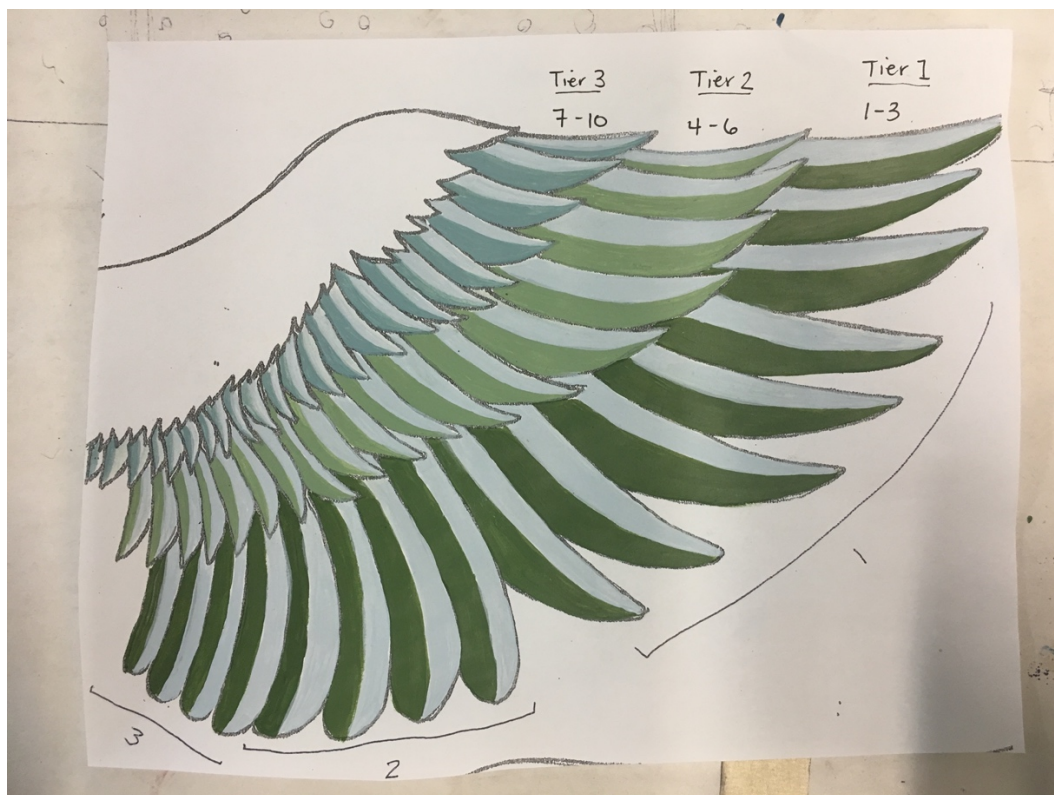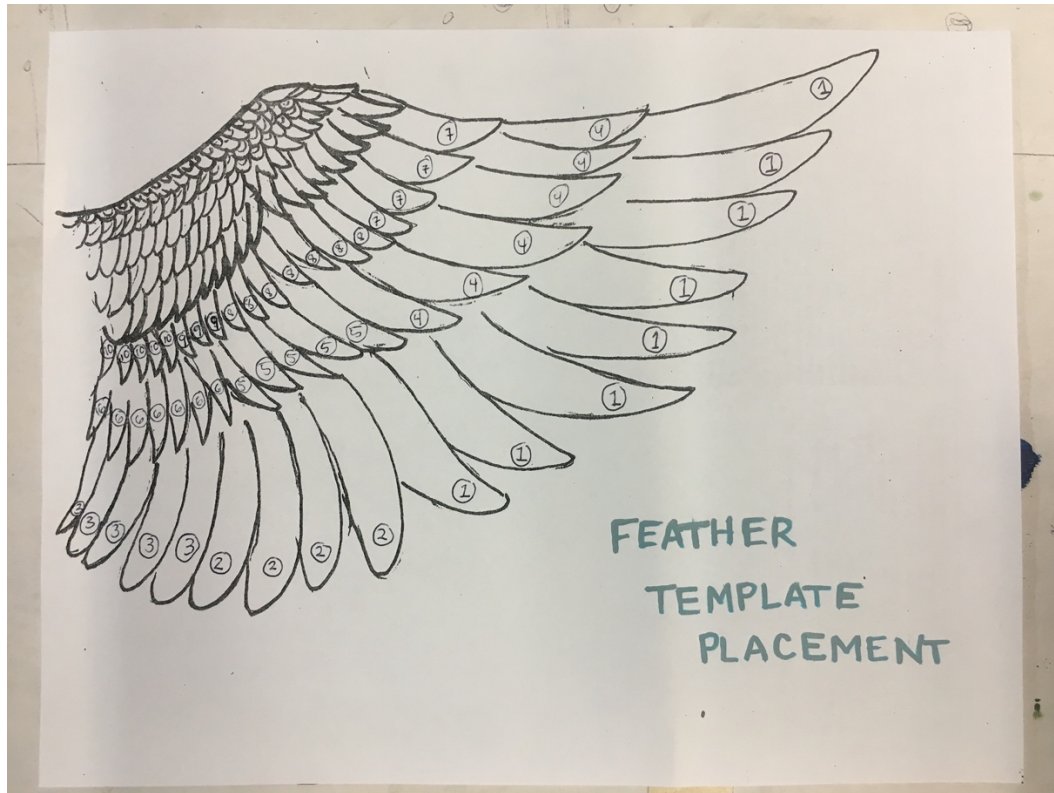
Step 4: Use your mixed Baby Blue to add a few highlights on the dark side of the feather.

Step 5: Use your Blue Sage Green to make some details on the light side of your feather. Use your Sage Green to add a couple accents to the dark side of your feather.

How your feathers will fit into the larger mural:

FEATHER
TEMPLATE
PLACEMENT

Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
7-10	4-6	1-3

Some Advice on Painting and Color Theory

The paint included in this kit is a professional-grade paint particularly formulated for use in murals – as such, it will not fade in the sun like many other acrylic paints, and has a very high pigment concentration. When mixing with white, go gently… add just a little color at a time until you get the value that you want. Otherwise you will run out* of white paint.

*Don't be afraid to ADD WATER!!! Your paints will go much farther.

**Make certain that your paint containers are completely closed before storing them in the bag to avoid spills, and to keep the paint from drying out. If lids become damaged, there are extras in the kit.

Paint Colors:

The colors included in each kit may vary, and will be selected from the following list:

Reds	Yellows	Blues	Neutrals
Cadmium Red Medium**	Cadmium Yellow Medium**	Cerulean Blue Hue	Yellow ochre
Quinacridone Magenta		Ultramarine Blue	Raw sienna
		Phthalo Turquoise	Raw Umber Dark
			Metallic Gold
** Indicates pigments known to be toxic if internalized- do not ingest the paint (obviously), and also avoid leaving these in prolonged contact with skin			Payne's Gray

BASIC COLOR THEORY:

Blue + Yellow = Green
Blue + Red = Purple
Red + Yellow = Orange
Blue + Red + Yellow = All the browns… or in the right balance, **chromatic black**

"BUT WHERE IS MY BLACK PAINT?! I MUST HAVE BLACK PAINT."
No black paint? Don't sweat it. A set of primaries (yellow, red, blue) in the right balance can make black. This Chromatic Black tends to be read as a "softer" black, and is also less likely to dull colors as much as black pigments when used to tone or darken other colors.

Chromatic Black recipe: one of the easiest ways to mix black is to mix Ultramarine Blue with Raw Umber Dark… your mileage may vary.

Paint Set Up:

Do: place a small about of paint on your palette while you are painting

Do: thin your paint with water to make transparent washes, or to keep it from drying out if it is getting gunky and thick (this trick will only save your paints for a little while, don't put off making your painting until your paints are too dry to use)

Don't: leave your paint cups open to the air (they will dry quickly, and then you will be out of paint and you will be sad.) Keep your paint cups stored inside a sealed bag.

Paint Clean-up:

Acrylic Paint is a water-based paint. However, that doesn't mean that it's easy to clean up if left to dry.

If left to dry on a porous surface (such as clothing, bedding, walls, floors, desks, etc.) it is very permanent.

On Fabric: If accidentally gotten on fabric, wet the fabric immediately, and scrub and soak the paint off. Paint that dries in fabric is not removable.

On Porous Surfaces: as above, add water immediately and scrub off before the paint has dried to prevent polymerization and permanent adhesion. Alternately – in a high-risk, high-reward scenario – it can sometimes work to let the paint dry and then flake it off with a straight edge.

On Non-Porous Surfaces: Acrylic paint is removable from most slick, non-porous surfaces – soak with water, and add a little bit of scrubbing action.

Your palette, if you choose to clean it and if it is made of a non-porous material, can be soaked in water for a few minutes before the paint will scrape off easily. Put dried paint scraps in the trash.

Brushes

A small piece of advice from someone who cares: use the right brush for the job. If you are painting large, use a big brush! You'll save yourself time and headache, and get better results in the end. Save your little brushes for smaller/detail work.

Brush Care:

Do: rinse your brush of paint regularly in water to keep paint from drying in the bristles. Once acrylic paint as dried, it does not reconstitute with water. Long story short, letting paint dry in your brush is bad news… Don't let paint dry in your brush!!!!

Don't: leave your brushes sitting bristles-down. Not even in your water container – rinse your brushes thoroughly with water after each painting session and ideally let dry flat. Wood-handled brushes left in water will swell until the handle forces off the metal ferrule and the brush is left headless.

Phew, that was a lot. Good Luck and Happy Painting!