

An Artist's Guide to Painting with Gouache on the Go

Gouache is a versatile and portable painting medium that is perfect for artists on the go. It is made from a mixture of pigment, water, and gum arabic, and it is known for its opaque, matte finish. Gouache can be used to create a wide range of effects, from delicate washes to bold, vibrant colors. It is also relatively easy to clean up, making it a great choice for plein air painting.

Choosing the Right Materials

The first step to painting with gouache on the go is choosing the right materials. You will need:



Anywhere, Anytime Art: Gouache: An artist's guide to painting with gouache on the go! by Agathe Singer

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- **Gouache paints:** There are many different brands of gouache paints available, so you can choose the ones that best suit your needs. Some

good brands to consider include Winsor & Newton, M. Graham, and Holbein.

- **Brushes:** You will need a variety of brushes for painting with gouache, including round brushes, flat brushes, and filberts. Choose brushes that are made from natural hair, such as sable or goat hair, as they will hold more paint and produce smoother strokes.
- **Palette:** A palette is a surface on which you can mix your paints. A portable palette is ideal for painting on the go. Look for a palette with a smooth surface and plenty of space for mixing colors.
- **Water container:** You will need a water container to rinse your brushes and keep your paints from drying out. A small spray bottle is a good option for painting on the go.
- **Paper or canvas:** You can paint with gouache on a variety of surfaces, including paper, canvas, and wood. Choose a surface that is smooth and free of any dirt or debris.

Preparing Your Surface

Once you have chosen your materials, you need to prepare your surface for painting. If you are painting on paper, you can simply tape it down to a hard surface. If you are painting on canvas, you will need to stretch it first. To stretch canvas, you will need a stretcher and some canvas tacks. Wrap the canvas around the stretcher and tack it down, making sure that the canvas is taut. Once your surface is prepared, you can start painting.

Creating Beautiful Works of Art

Now that you have prepared your surface, you can start creating beautiful works of art. Gouache is a very versatile medium, and you can use it to

create a wide range of effects. Start by experimenting with different colors and brushstrokes. Once you have a feel for the medium, you can start to create more complex paintings.

Here are a few tips for painting with gouache on the go:

- **Start with a light touch:** Gouache is a very opaque paint, so it is important to start with a light touch. Apply thin layers of paint and build up the color gradually.
- **Use a variety of brushstrokes:** Vary the pressure and direction of your brushstrokes to create different effects. Experiment with using different brushes to see how they affect the look of your painting.
- **Don't be afraid to mix colors:** Gouache is a great medium for mixing colors. Experiment with mixing different colors to create new and exciting hues.
- **Let your paintings dry completely:** Gouache paintings need to dry completely before they can be varnished or framed. Allow your paintings to dry for at least 24 hours before handling them.

Gouache is a versatile and portable painting medium that is perfect for artists on the go. With a little practice, you can create beautiful works of art that you can cherish for years to come.



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