

The Wild and Adventurous Gouache and India Ink Technique

by Joanie Springer of www.ARTfortheSOULofit.com

INTRO

I love to mix up media, it's just fun. And I find that after I finish a batch of paintings and find myself in a bit of limbo while incubating the next painting inspirations, I love to play around with my various art supplies. I'm guessing that you may have a veritable art store of supplies like I do. Sand gouache is something I always go back to...so, here's how I decided to play this time around. I tried this technique in the past, sometimes referred to as Gouache and India Ink Relief, with wonderful results and a few discoveries.....so here's my take on it.

STEP ONE – The Painting

I spent the afternoon painting in gouache. I use a gold metallic pen (Pilot Gold Marker – oil based) because I've noticed with past attempts that it absorbs the black ink really nicely. I used layers and layers of gouache, since I kept adjusting the colors. It is important to have some pretty thick layers before proceeding with the ink. I went over my gold lines again at the end. Now it's drying.

Honestly, it's always a bit scary to cover some piece of art I've spent so much time on with blackest of blacks india ink, but.....you've just got to take some risks in art.



Here's my stuff:

- watercolor palette with both opaque watercolor and gouache paints
- white gouache
- brushes

- Pilot Gold Marker – oil based (*not shown but is an absolute necessity*)
- water container
- water spray (always good to spray your paints and wait a few minutes)



I set up my plastic-covered cardboard so i won't make a mess.

India ink is messy, folks!

Garage sale porcelain dish at left to pour ink into.

At right a sponge cloth and a very soft watercolor brush. Soft is important so that you don't pick up layers of gouache when you layer the ink.

TIPS:

- I used 140lb Arches cold press.....
- Paint in layers, ending up with thick coverage.
- Use white paint anywhere you want to preserve whites.
- What you leave unpainted will be solid black.
- The india ink will adhere nicely to wherever you use the gold metallic ink.
- Use a simple subject: detail is pretty lost in this process, so go simple. Even my clock was a bit too detailed, truth be told.
- Wait until thoroughly dried, even overnite....before proceeding to STEP TWO.

STEP TWO – The Risky Part



Pour out your india ink, more than you think you need. You can always pour it back into its container. I don't add any water...but some folks do.



GOING....

This is the scariest part! Just do it.....taking risks is what art-making is all about.



GOING.... Too late to turn back now....LOL



GONE!

Now it's the waiting game again.....

and I mean really wait. Wait an extra hour or two after you are SURE it is dry.

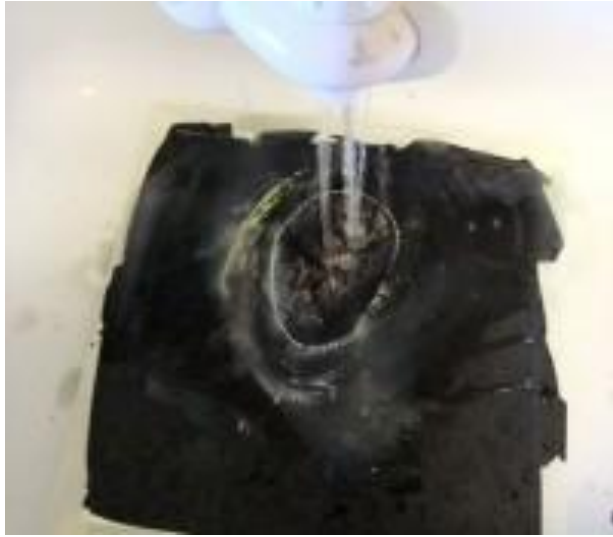
STEP THREE – The Adventurous Part

Once you put your painting under water – a gentle flow, there is LOTS of gentle rubbing to do....this may have taken 15 minutes, though I didn't really track time.

- Rub gently,
- rub consistently and
- always be sensitive to the paper, that is, don't rub holes through it!

Here's what happened:







I stopped here.....will add some light painting touches to complete.

THE FINAL VERSION – The Reveal and Reward Part

I added a bit of gouache over the clock face, not to obscure the stubborn black ink, but to mute it a bit, and still keep an antique look. And I added back in the little red gems....and the yellow ones, too. (If I had kept it simpler to begin with I wouldn't have had these extras to paint back in.)

Here's the outcome of my [three step gouache and india ink tutorial](#). What a fun project! The time is 11:11 which is one of my most favorite numbers!

TITLE: Cockamamie Clock

SIZE/SUPPORT: 10" x 10" on 140lb Arches cold pressed.

MEDIA: gouache, india ink



Thanks for stopping by, and I would love to know how you did with this process, so stop by www.ARTfortheSOULofit.com and give me a shout. I would love to see your paintings.

Blessings,

Joanie

Here are a few other gouache and india ink painting I've done:

[Elphaba](#)

[No Words Necessary](#)

[Dragonflies Dancing in the Dark](#)

[Life in Three Acts](#)

When I'm not painting I'm busy with my other endeavors:

www.BalsamicMoon.com – handmade natural gemstone jewelry

www.Tumbled-Stones.com – home of the 1oz. magical bags of stones

www.DesignWebMagic.com – professional and friendly web design services (Wordpress)