ACRYLIC

The “Modern” Paint

ROYAL TALENS

Agenda

- In the Beginning
- Pigment
- Binder
- Determining Quality
- Working Properties
- Mediums
- Techniques
- Q&A

In the beginning…

- Otto Rohm invented Acrylic Polymer Resin
- It was patented in the 1930s in Germany by Rohm and Haas.
- The original acrylic paints were spirit based, meaning that they weren't water soluble.
- The first water-based acrylics were developed in NYC and Mexico in the 1950s, Magna and Politec.

In the beginning…

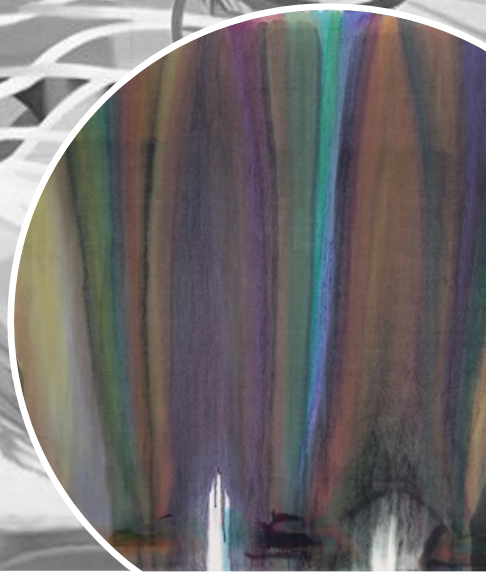
The first group of artists who used these “acrylics” in the 1930s and 40s were the Mexican muralists including Diego Rivera, Jose Orozco and David Siqueiros.

This new paint was easier to work with than other traditional mural materials like fresco or oils, and being alkali resistant, they were more durable.

In the beginning…

It took until the 1960s for the new water mixable paint to take off with artists in the US.

Color field painters like Helen Frankenthaler and Morris Louis and Pop artists like James Rosenquist used acrylics for their staining properties and their surface quality.



Pigments

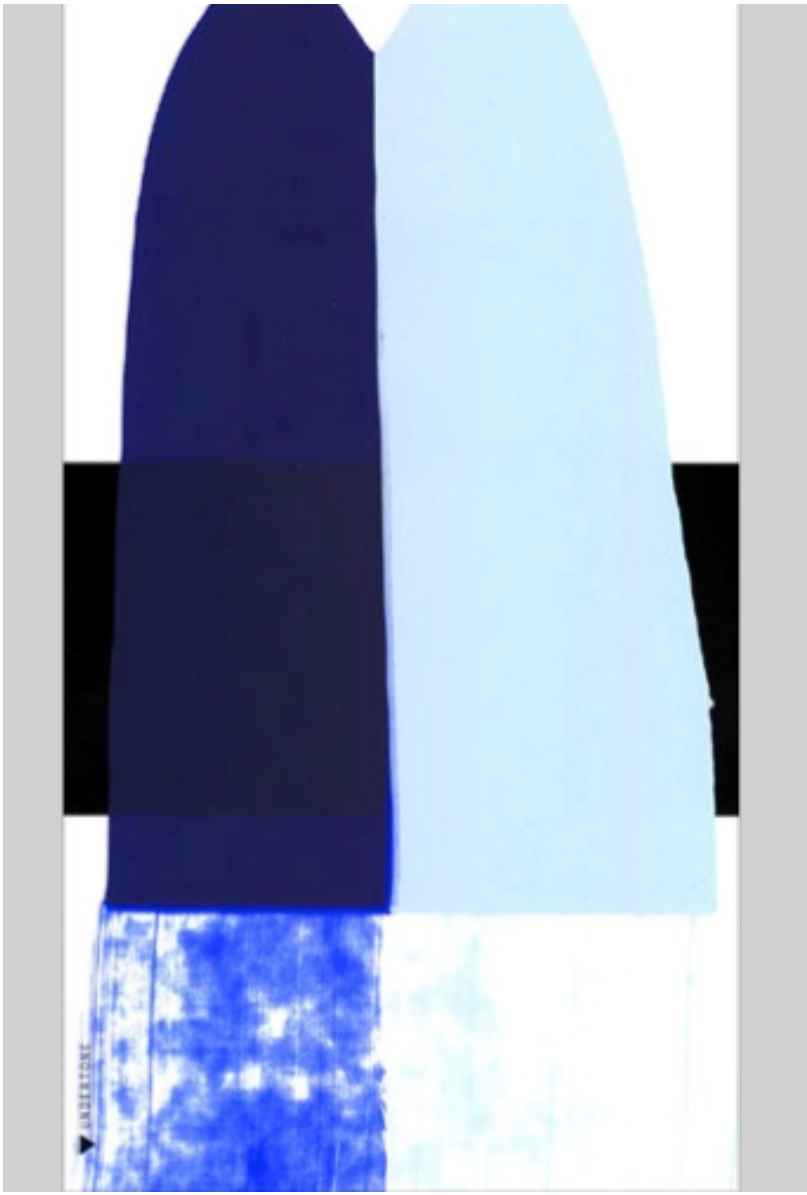
- There are three categories of pigments.
  - Organic
  - Inorganic
  - Synthetic
- Today pigments are standardized with the use of the Color Index.
- Dyes vs Pigments = (Solution vs Suspension)

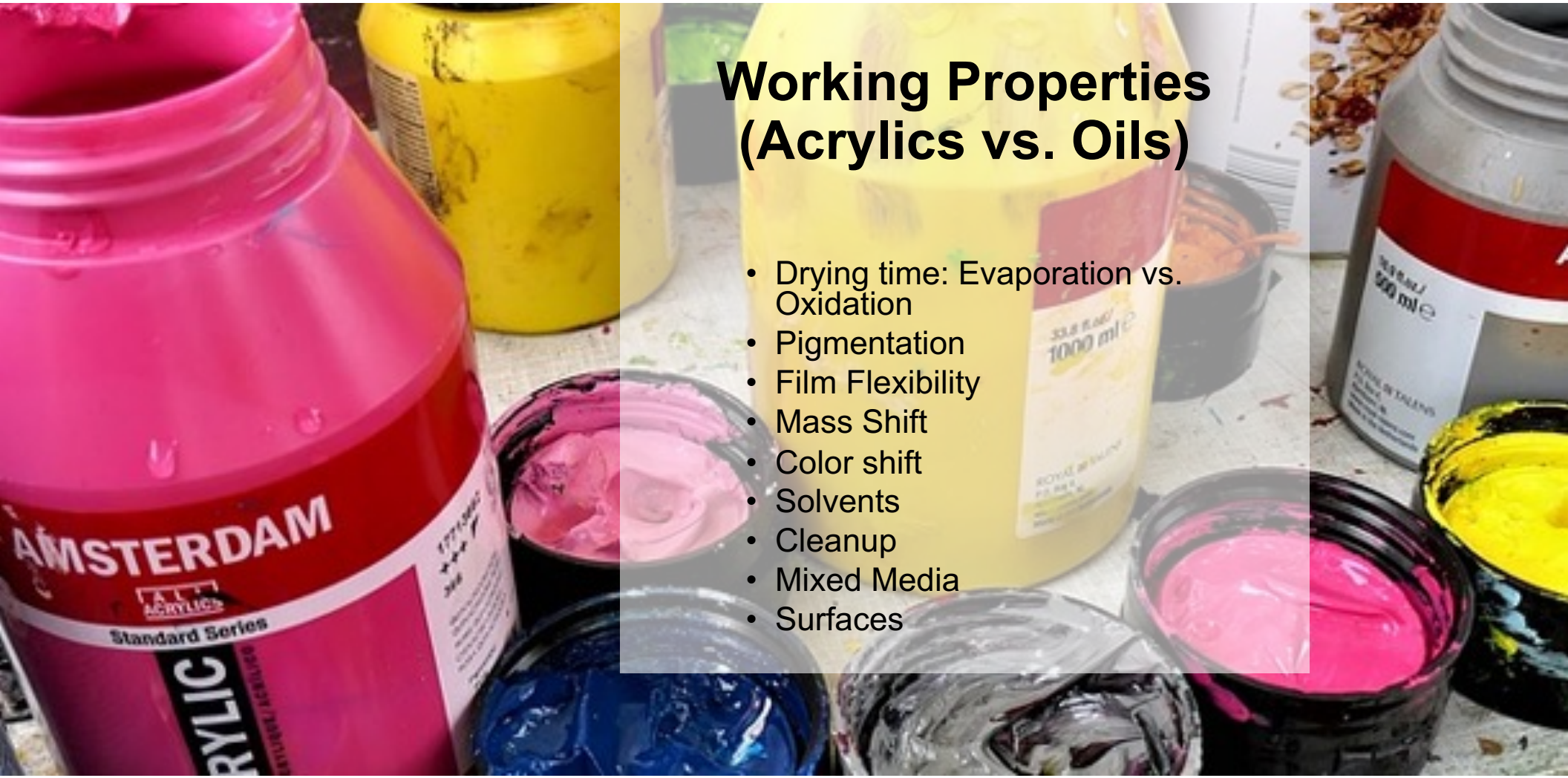
Binder

- Suspend and Adhere
- Other ingredients in paint can include:
  - stabilizers
  - extenders
  - preservatives
  - emulsifiers

Determining Quality

- What do the terms “student grade” and “artists grade” mean to you?
- Pigment load
- Milling or Grind
- Lightfastness
- Exclusive colors
- Color Range
- Series
- Mass-tone, Under-tone, Tinting





Working Properties (Acrylics vs. Oils)

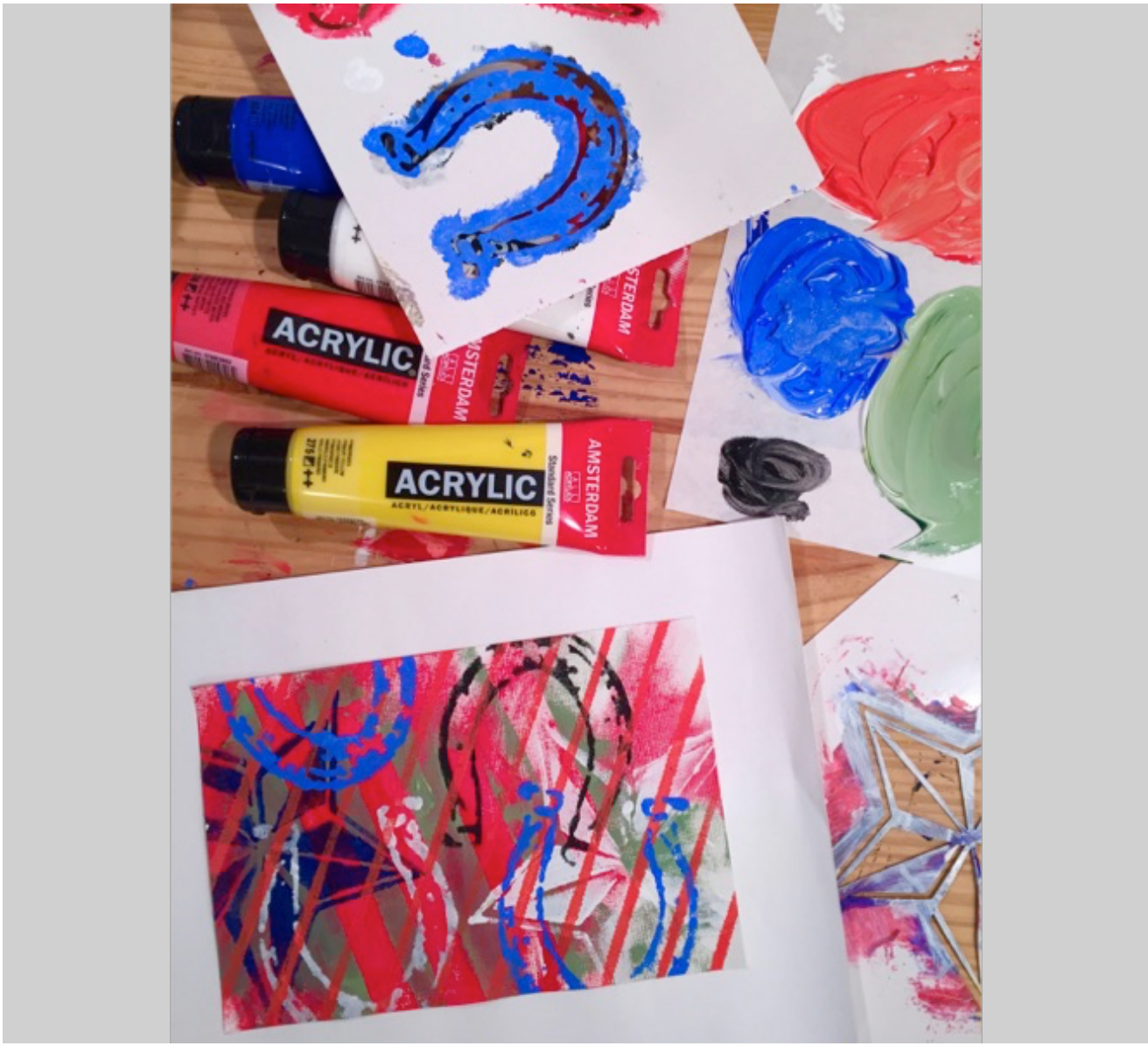
- Drying time: Evaporation vs. Oxidation
- Pigmentation
- Film Flexibility
- Mass Shift
- Color shift
- Solvents
- Cleanup
- Mixed Media
- Surfaces

Auxiliaries

- Grounds (under)
- Mediums (in)
- Varnishes (over)

Techniques

- Acrylics exhibit incredible versatility
  - Layering (glazing)
  - Washes
  - Collage
  - Staining
  - Hard Edge



Layering

(Opaque & Transparent)


Washes
(Watercolor Techniques)

Collage

Staining

Hard Edge

(Masking)

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