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# Unleashing Your Inner Artist: A Guide to Creating Abstract Art

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Does abstract art look easy? To those who don't actually create it, it might seem so. But the reality is, abstract art is challenging! For many years, I worked realistically then transitioned to abstract art. The excitement is unending; there's always something new to discover. If you're new to this artistic world, here are some insights to help you navigate this exciting form of artwork.





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# Understanding Abstract Art

Contrary to popular belief, abstract art is more than just blobs of paint and random marks on paper. Yes, these elements can be present, but there's so much more depth underneath it all.





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# Finding Inspiration for Abstract Art





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So, where can you find ideas for abstract pieces? Ideas and inspiration are all around us! They could come from small portions of photos or drawings, sidewalk cracks, textures of roads and pavement, blurry photos, ripples on a pond, shadows and reflections, textures in nature, collage elements, or even from a portion of a previously completed painting. You can also find inspiration by cropping, adjusting, and editing on your computer or phone. Natural elements such as sky, water, cliffs, rocks, leaves, grasses, flowers, etc., can spark creativity.





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The movements,  
gestures, music,  
sounds, sensations,  
dreams, and  
poems can also  
serve as inspiration  
for your artwork.  
So, what are your  
ideas?





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# Tips for Creating Abstract Art





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Creating  
abstract art  
can be quite a  
journey. Here  
are some tips  
to guide you  
through:





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Keep it  
simple.  
Don't  
overthink it  
and don't  
complicate  
things.





Remember,  
it's a process.  
Get lost in it  
without  
knowing what  
the next step  
would be. Just  
do it!





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Don't get too  
hung up on  
composition.  
Composition is  
basically  
arranging  
shapes on a  
square or  
rectangle.





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Contrast  
and value  
create  
impact.





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Don't expect to  
be perfect from  
the get-go.  
Abstract painting  
looks simple, but  
most artists I  
admire have  
been honing their  
craft for years.





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Abstract art  
requires a lot of  
experimentation.  
Build play time  
and  
experimentation  
into your  
schedule, as that's  
where the real  
learning happens.





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Be okay with  
work that  
doesn't turn out  
as expected.  
Not every  
painting will be  
a keeper, and  
that's okay.





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Work without  
the end in mind.  
If you're creating  
work for a show,  
competition, or  
gallery, you  
might not fully  
delve into the  
process.





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Don't compare your work to others, especially those who have been at it for years. Art, like golf, requires practice, muscle memory, lessons, and playing as much as possible.





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Take the long view. Progress happens over a long period of time, never overnight. Little changes, adjustments, and trials all add up to progress.





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Don't give up. If it's important to you, stick with it. If you feel frustrated and upset, fight through it and keep going. Giving up will only stall your progress.





