## 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.



## 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.



## Finding Inspiration for Abstract Art



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.



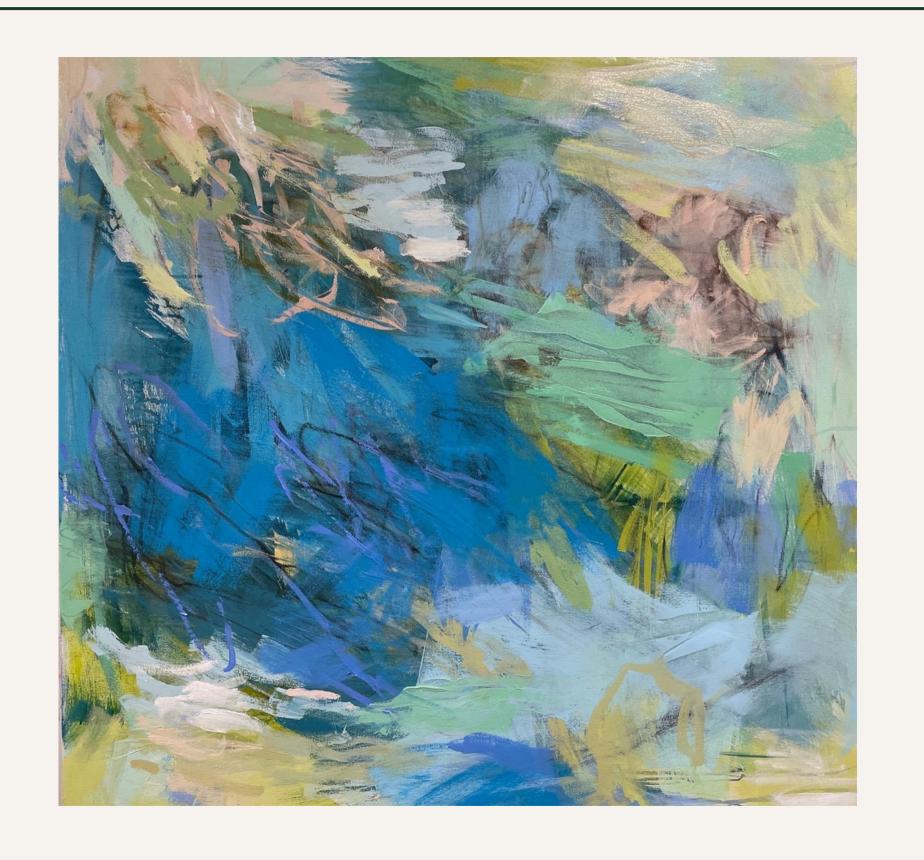
The movements, gestures, music, sounds, sensations, dreams, and poems can also serve as inspiration for your artwork. So, what are your ideas?



## Tips for Creating Abstract Art



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



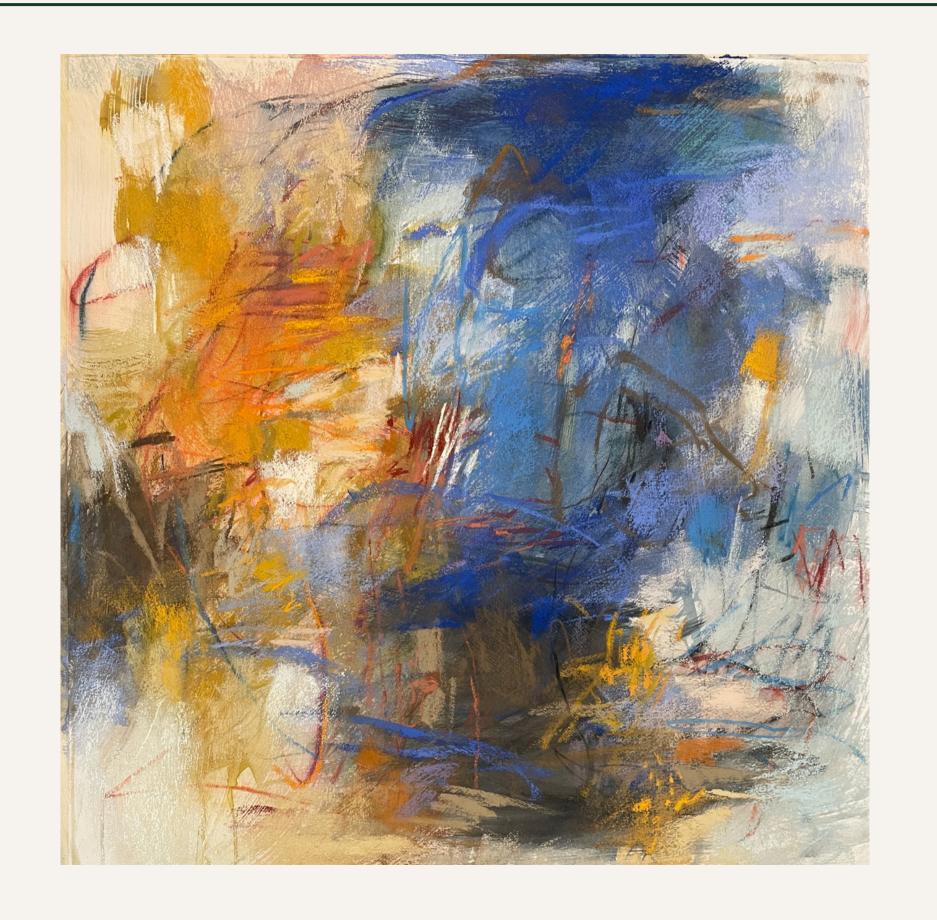
Keep it simple. Don't overthink it and don't complicate things.



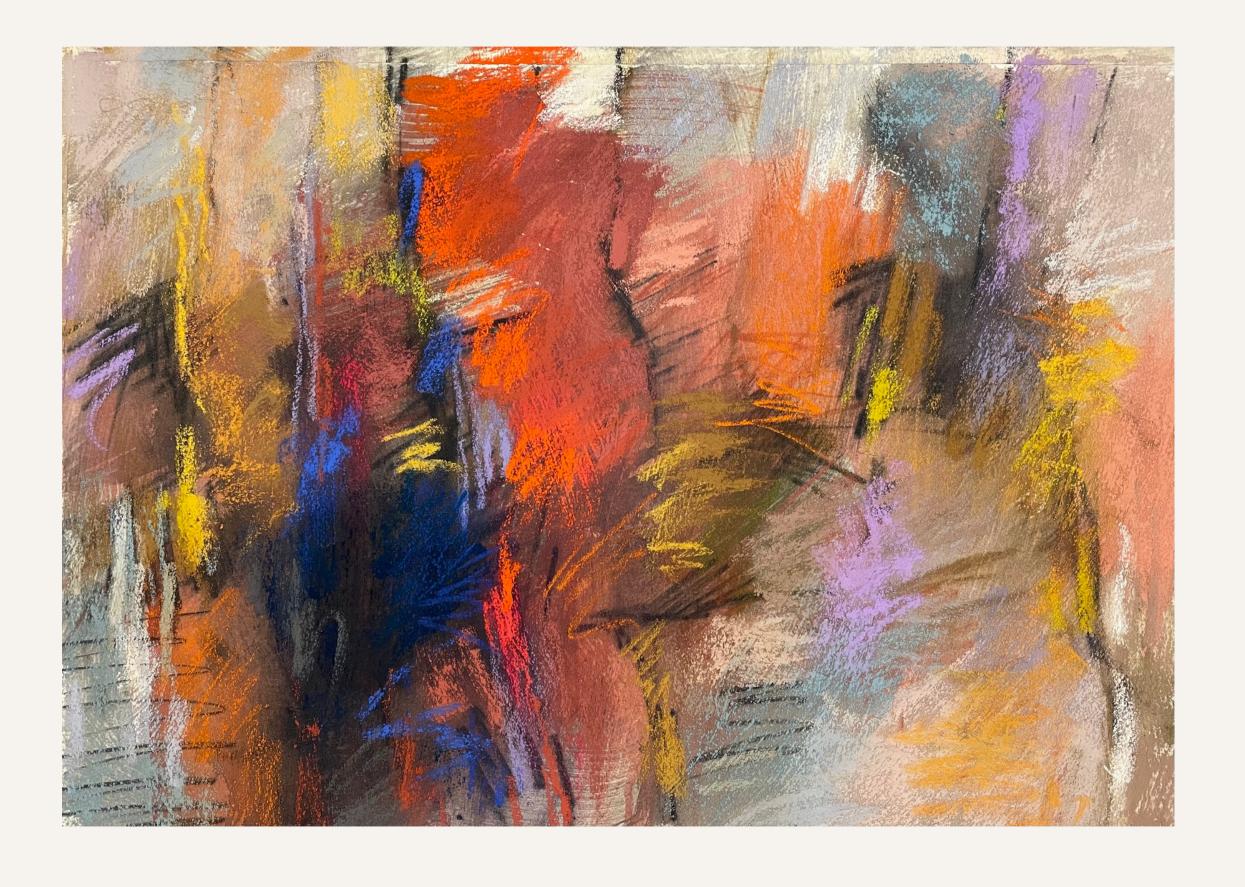
Remember, it's a process. Get lost in it without knowing what the next step would be. Just do it!



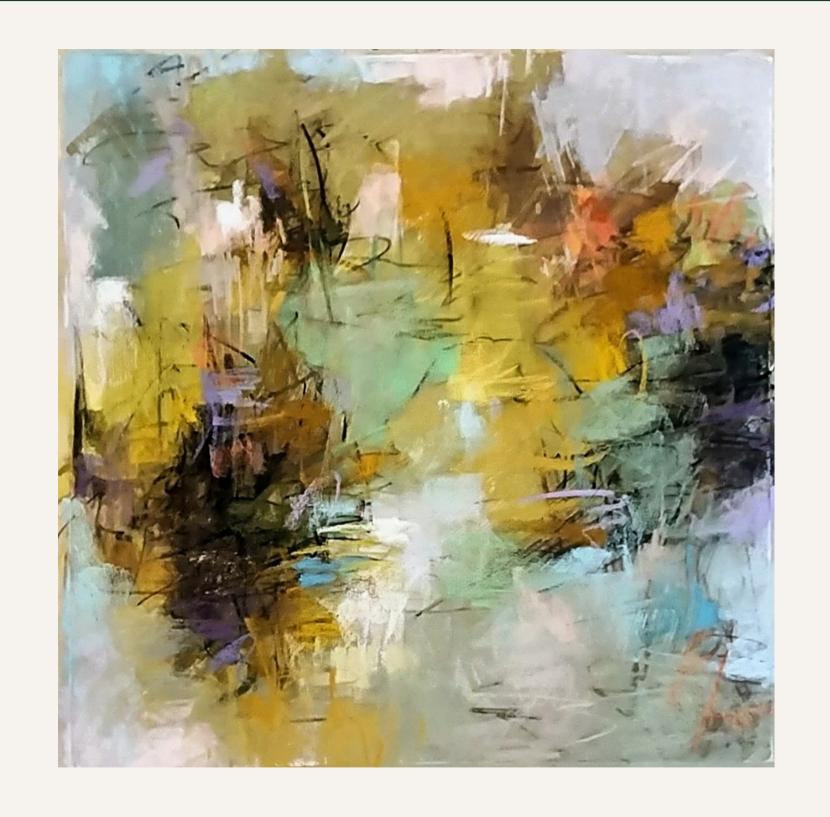
Don't get too hung up on composition. Composition is basically arranging shapes on a square or rectangle.



Contrast and value create impact.



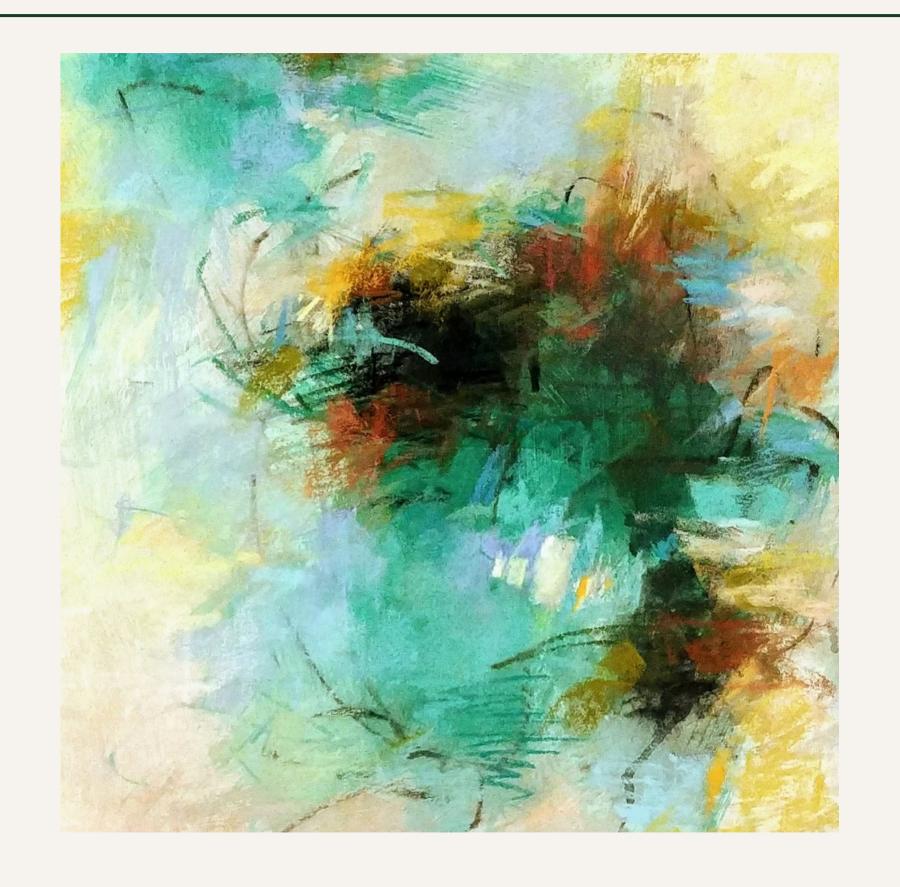
Don't expect to be perfect from the get-go. Abstract painting looks simple, but most artists I admire have been honing their craft for years.



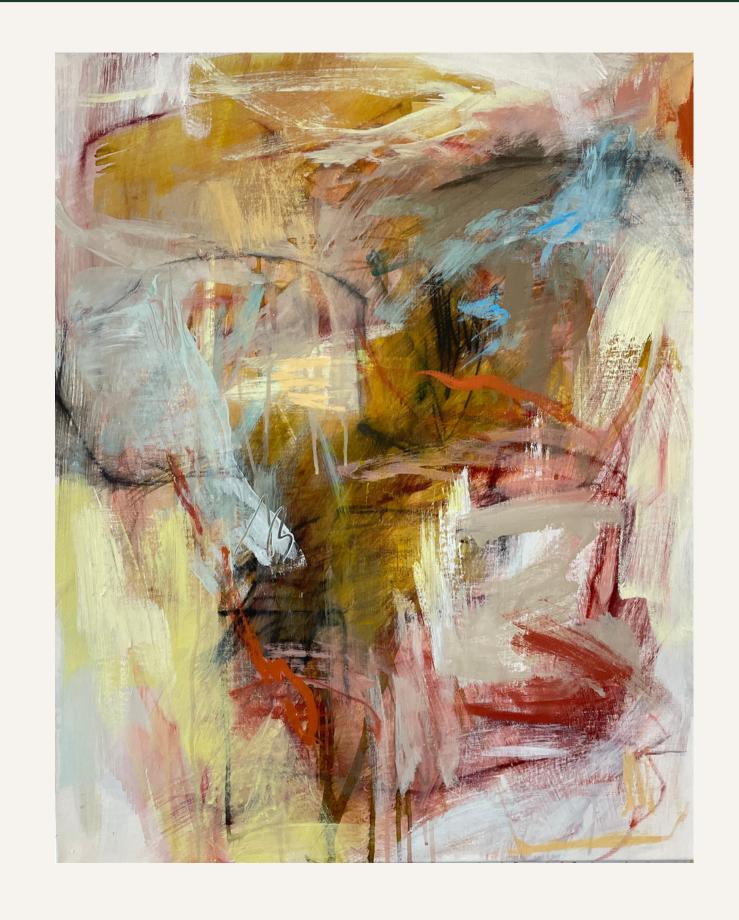
Abstract art requires a lot of experimentation. Build play time and experimentation into your schedule, as that's where the real learning happens.



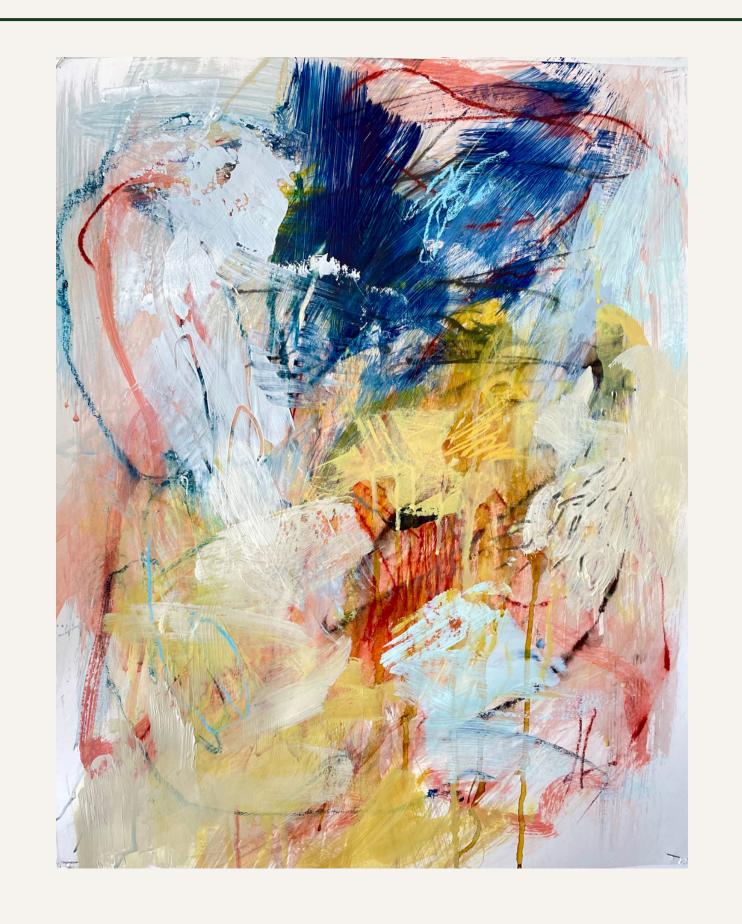
Be okay with work that doesn't turn out as expected. Not every painting will be a keeper, and that's okay.



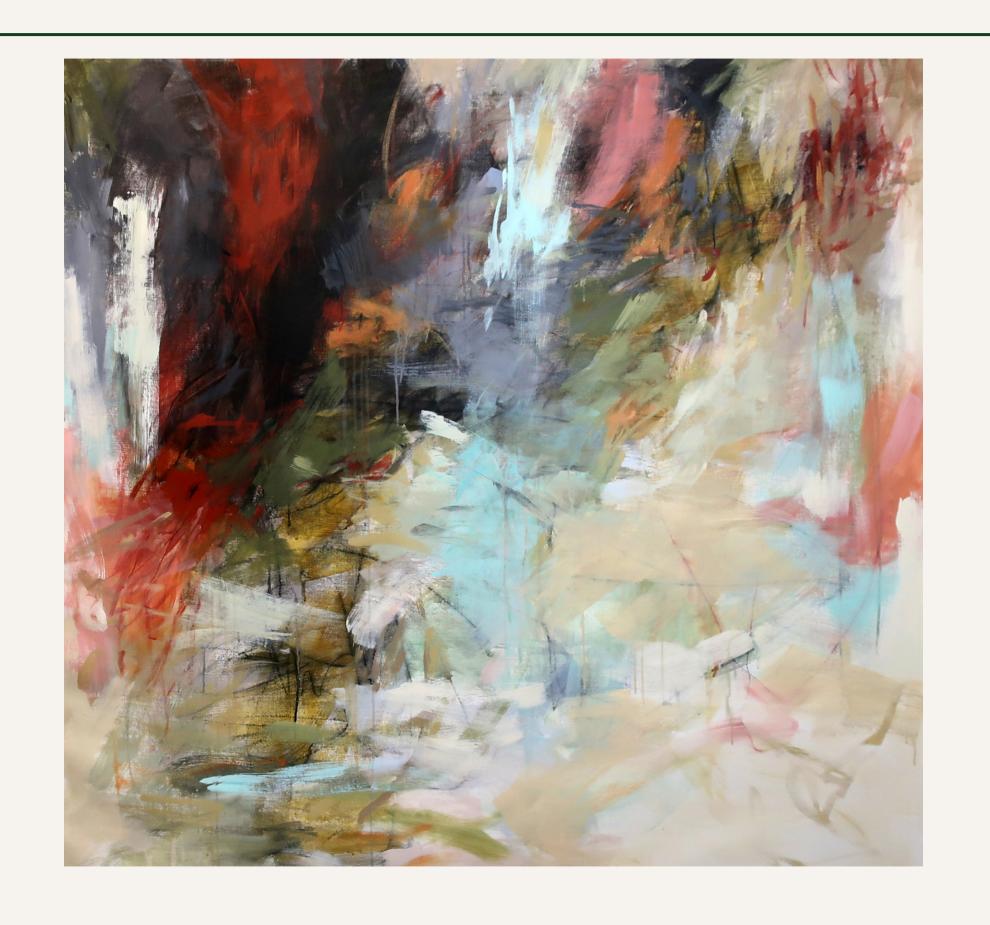
Work without the end in mind. If you're creating work for a show, competition, or gallery, you might not fully delve into the process.



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.



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



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.

