

Opaque Tissues

This technique yields strong, transparent, color-fast tissues that can be used as a part of your image making.

Start with ordinary white tissue paper and an old terrycloth towel. Place the tissue paper on the towel, and then carefully paint GESSO on the surface of the tissue. Leave a half inch un-coated boarder around the tissue so it can be handled without getting GESSO on your fingers. A nylon brush works best. Dampen the brush occasionally with water, but use only a minimum of water because the tissue tears easily when too wet.

When the first side dries, turn it over and coat the other side with GESSO. Repeat the procedure until there are 3 coats of GESSO on both sides. Be sure to allow complete drying between coats.

Note that the tissue is now much stronger and is much less prone to tearing. Note also the incredibly complex network of bumps and wrinkles that make up the surface of the tissue. The thick GESSO allows you to easily tear along curved or straight lines, as you wish.

You may now paint the tissue with either transparent or opaque acrylic colors depending on you objectives (opaque colors seem to work best in this technique). You may blend colors, paint wet-into-wet, spray them with rubbing alcohol, or use any device that creates your image. The new iridescent acrylic paints are especially beautiful when applied to these highly textured tissues.

These colored tissues are color-fast because the color comes from the acrylic paints. The tissues may be torn into smaller bits and pieces and used in your collage work, or they can be used on their own to form brilliantly colored images.