How to Paint a Palm Tree
with Rachel Christopoulos

Paint along with Blick Featured Artist Rachel Christopoulos as she demos an easy technique for creating a vibrant abstract palm tree with Daler-Rowney System3 Fluid Acrylics.

HOW TO MAKE IT

Step 1

Choose a large brush and paint your entire background with a variety of color patches. The color will be more translucent because of the fluid paint, and that is okay! Use Neon Pink and Cyan Blue to mix vivid greens and oranges.

Step 2

Once your background is covered, allow the canvas to dry completely before adding another layer.

Step 3

Add water to your brush and paints, then continue to add layered patches of translucent color.

Step 4

When your canvas is dry, use contrasting colors to make lines, dots, or dashes on the background of your piece. These marks will add interest!

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Step 5

Grab your ½" brush. To create your palm tree, use Mars Black or Ultramarine Blue to paint a slightly curved line down the bottom half of your canvas. Add branches by placing your brush at the center of your trunk and pulling outwards with a single curved stroke. Do this six times. Add leaves to each branch using short, curved strokes in the same color.

Step 6

Once your tree outline is dry, begin to layer as many colors as you'd like inside the leaves using short, rainbow-shaped strokes.
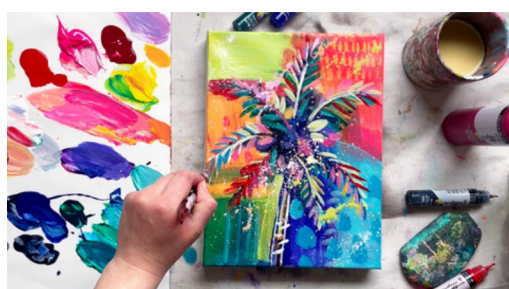

Step 7

When you're happy with your colors and leaves, create a more fluid paint texture by adding water to your acrylic color of choice. Dip your 1" brush into the wet paint and hit it with another brush over your canvas to add splatters.

Step 8

Splatter as much or little as you like! It can be fun to switch up the colors.

Step 9

To finish your painting, add any final details around your tree.