



Utrecht Art Supplies

Studio Craft: Ways to Refresh Your Art



Feel like things are getting a little stale in the studio? Here are some ideas to recharge your creative instincts!

Join a Critique Group

Consider joining or starting a critique group that takes turns meeting at each member's studio. Seeing other artists' work and sharing ideas is a great way to gain a fresh perspective on your own work.

Make a Master Copy

Originality is a core value in contemporary art, and artists can be reluctant to copy the work of others. This attitude is fairly recent, however. Before the Modernist movement, copying the work of old masters was central to art education. Copying is a great way to learn brush strokes, compositions and color schemes you would never have tried on your own. Copying isn't just for students, either- as the most famous artist of his age, Rubens copied major works by Titian while traveling as a diplomat. The best part of making a faithful copy of a favorite historical

painting is when you're finished, you'll have a gorgeous work of art to hang on your studio wall!

Buy some new colors

Artists often tend to rely heavily on a few favorite color mixtures. Modifying your palette forces new color mixing solutions and creates unexpected contrasts and harmonies. If you're not sure what colors to select, try identifying where your palette is most thin. For instance, are most of your colors in a narrow value range, leaving high and low key ranges too sparse? Do you have a good selection of single-pigment secondaries? For a real challenge, try something totally unusual in a traditional palette, like metallics or iridescent colors.

Collaborate on a painting

Collaboration is central to dance, music and theater, so why must art always be a solitary practice? Working with one or more other artists on a single piece can be an exciting exercise with unexpected results. Collaboration provides a refreshing break from competing with other artists and a great way to push the limits of your abilities.

Recycle abandoned canvases

After a while, most artists start to accumulate paintings that just never got finished. Looking at abandoned canvases each day can dampen enthusiasm and create anxiety. When you're sure an old painting is going absolutely nowhere, it might be time to do something about

it. It's easy to reuse canvases, either by priming over acrylics, reversing, re-stretching and priming the backs of oil paintings or just stretching new canvas over old stretchers. This exercise clears out the cobwebs and makes you feel good that nothing is going to waste.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

Intended for reference only. Observe all package instructions. Dick Blick Holdings/Utrecht Art Supplies is not responsible for any damage to personal property that may result from use of the information presented herein. © Copyright 2016 Dick Blick Holdings Inc. All rights reserved.