

#ASK



# Jackson's



Got an art question you need answered? Need help or advice on a specific product, technique or medium? We want to hear from you...

### Impasto Paintings

**Q. Intelligent\_Female\_Nonsense:** Is it really possible to make impasto paintings using acrylics that work as well as oils? If so what materials would you recommend?

**A. Jackson's:** Acrylic is a fantastic medium for impasto, and it dries faster than oil too. Heavy body acrylics are stiff and buttery, so they retain brushstrokes and texture which makes them great for dynamic impasto painting. Unlike oils, acrylic paint has a tendency to shrink as it dries, as the water contained in the paint evaporates; this can cause the texture to become less pronounced after drying. To reduce shrinkage, you can add a heavy acrylic gel medium which will further increase the viscosity and help the paint maintain higher peaks. Viscosity isn't the only thing you can control; choosing a gloss heavy gel medium will give your acrylic paint an oil-like sheen. Like all media, oil and acrylic do handle differently, however, we wouldn't say one is more suited for impasto than the other, it's down to preference. Using heavy body acrylics, mediums and gels will allow you to achieve a range of impasto handling properties.



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### Watercolour Pans

**Q. Jolly\_Kay:** I have a question about taking care of watercolour pans during humid and rainy days. How to prevent my paints from damage due to moulds during such weather?

**A. Jackson's:** Most watercolours contain an anti-fungal agent to prevent mould from growing, so it would require an extremely humid climate for this to be an issue. However, watercolours and other water-based paints may be susceptible to growing mould if certain conditions occur. Mould thrives in dark, warm and moist environments, so the first thing we would recommend is letting your pans dry before closing the lid of your palette or watercolour tin. Keeping your watercolour pans in the fridge would be an additional step to keep mould at bay and if it is a persistent problem, consider using tubed watercolours and dispensing the paint as required.

### Melting Oil Pastels

**Q. Marion\_Boddy-Evans:** Do oil pastels melt in extreme heat, either as sticks or on a painting? I have a vision of mark making reduced to a puddle...

**A. Jackson's:** Oil pastels are heat sensitive; they become softer in response to the heat of your hands and harder after they have been kept in the fridge. However, it would take very extreme heat for oil pastel sticks to melt into a puddle—for example, it wouldn't be advisable to keep oil pastels in a car on a hot day, but no artist medium should be exposed to those kinds of temperatures. In an oil pastel painting or drawing, an increase in temperature could make the oil pastel softer and more sensitive to smudging. No matter what the temperature is, care should be taken to avoid the surface being disturbed because oil pastels never fully dry anyway.

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