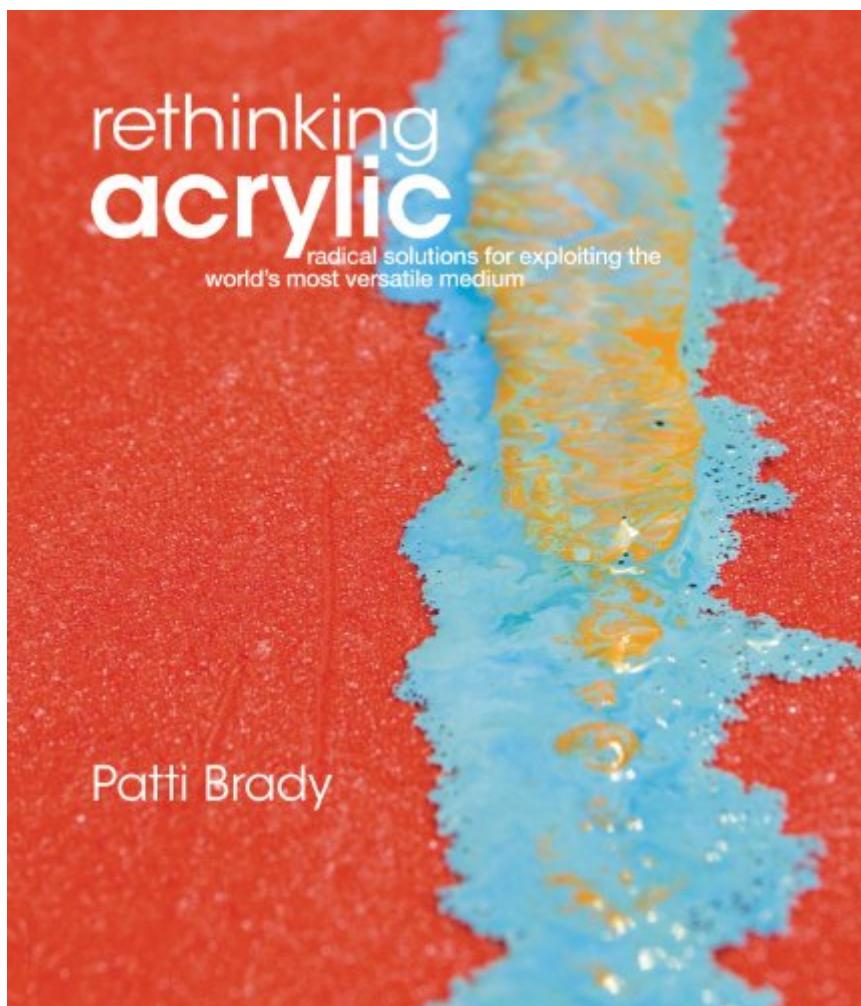


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# Rethinking Acrylic: Radical Solutions For Exploiting The World's Most Versatile Medium



## **Synopsis**

Have you ever walked into an art supply store, stood in front of the amazing array of acrylic products and just thrown up your hands in confusion, leaving the store without buying something new to experiment with? If you've ever wondered what to do with all those products, then this book is for you. If you've been using acrylic in traditional painting forms, in this book you'll find grand, wild and inventive manipulations of acrylic that will get your creative juices flowing. Compared to more traditional art mediums such as oil and watercolor, acrylic is still in its infancy. But what it lacks in years, it makes up for in its range of use. Acrylics appeared on the market for artists in the late 1940s as a quick-drying alternative to oil paint. In its early manifestations, it dried so quickly that more than a few brushes stuck immediately to the canvas! Although acrylic has been around for more than fifty years, incredible advances continue to be made in the research and development of acrylic polymers and pigments. These advancements are attributable not only to the efforts of a few dedicated chemists, but also to the work of an entire community devoted to acrylic. There are a lot of brilliant minds taking these minute molecules very seriously.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Patti Brady's "Rethinking Acrylics" has proved to be even better than my (previously reviewed) favourite, Nancy Reyner's "Acrylic Revolution, and that's saying a lot. As an artist, I have changed from pastel work to painting abstracts in acrylics, and I could not have developed the unique textural and reflective effects I wanted without the help of Patti Brady's book. One comment claims that most artists use only acrylic pigments and water. Maybe hobby artists do, but to create finishes that professionally replicate the beautiful effects of traditional mediums like oils and encaustics, it is necessary to go further than pigment and water alone. For example, there are artists like myself who do not have the correct ventilation for using encaustics. Patty Brady demonstrates an exciting "faux encaustic" using acrylic pigments and mediums that solves the problem and looks very like the real thing. Another challenge is in creating vibrancy and light. It is not possible to use ten to twenty glazes to achieve light refraction and depth without using the unique effects of acrylic mediums. And if you want to "float" objects in successive transparent layers, the use of an acrylic medium is essential. Brady covers all these techniques and more. Regardless of whether you like Patti Brady's style of art or not, she has the use of acrylic mediums down to a fine art. If you want to learn to exploit acrylics to the full, this is definitely the book. And it does show work in progress from other artists who demonstrate creative uses of acrylic pigments and mediums in very different styles. While the book does focus exclusively on Golden Artists Colours, it is possible to adapt the techniques to other quality brands. The emphasis is on quality. It is impossible to achieve the same effects (as Brady does) by using cheap substitutes. I have also found Golden Paints much more user friendly than other brands in regard to toxicity. Despite initial price, they are economical because they have a high chroma and so go a long way. No, it does not cost \$50 dollars to complete a painting with Golden Paints" as one commenter claims. My most recent work was 39 inches x 45 inches and the Golden Products I used would have cost me less than \$15 (and some were specialty products.) There are no "cheap gimmicks" in this book as one critic has claimed. It is the ability to achieve the visual statement you want that determines choice of paint medium. "Rethinking Acrylics" has helped me achieve results well beyond what I had initially hoped.

I am certain I will be referring back to this book time and time again. So much useful information and easily searchable.

Patti has several different artist showing their method of painting. Each is different and exciting. If somebody wants to jump start their painting. This is a good place to start. She shows you examples

of how to use gel, molding and other techniques to give texture to your paintings. You will see many wild designs and ways to express your self.

This is a fantastic book describing all the various techniques available with acrylic paints, gels, mediums and gessos. I have looked at all the many types of texturizing mediums, varnishes, and additives and own most of them but unless you really know what they are used for and how to apply them you will be at a loss when it comes to getting the look you want from them once you try to use them. This describes most of the texture gels available and shows how to apply them. Photos of abstracts utilizing them are shown so you can get an idea of how they look when expertly applied. This book was exactly what I was looking for. My one problem with this book is that it is in binder form, with a metal binder to hold the pages underneath the outer book binding. Therefore, the pages tear out easily when you don't want them to. The photos are large and some nice artwork is shown for examples. The descriptions of how to get the mediums onto your work platform, whether canvas, board or paper, could be more detailed, and in most cases there is only one or two brief sentences about how to do this. Of course this means you need to experiment, and that is left to you. I found this book to be exactly what I had hoped it would be. Lots of new projects are described to try out the various mediums and types of acrylic paint, and details are given sufficiently in the descriptions of these projects that it will inspire anyone to try out a few. Even the paint colors are given if you want to try to duplicate some of the lovely abstracts shown. I was very pleased with this book.

I already own "Acrylic Revolution", but this is a perfect companion piece. Some of the same techniques, but presented in a different way, and some techniques not covered in the other book. Nice big pictures to illustrate techniques. This book shows that acrylic is an entirely different medium than oils, can be used to do many techniques that would be impossible with other mediums, and along with "Acrylic Revolution", brings acrylics into their own.

I had very high expectations from the book. And it is a good book. However I am disappointed in the fact that it feels more like a Golden catalogue. The author suggests multiple mediums for various techniques. However does not point out that one medium can be used in place of many other by altering consistency or technique saving you a lot of money which would be a concern when you are starting out as a beginner.

FANTASTIC book! Sure, it's heavy on Golden products but they are GOOD products! You can use

any of your own choices too of course. The ideas set your creativity a-blaze. I simply can't wait to try out some of the ideas I've gotten from this book. I've been working exclusively in oils and pastels for over 2 decades. So much has changed and come along to make the possibilities endless. You won't regret getting this book. It's phenomenal!

There's no doubt that any artist picking up this book will find IDEAS that are new and exciting. Can't wait to try some of them. Acrylic mediums have come a long way since the book was written, but the basics stay the same. So the age really doesn't matter. Good illustrations. Eventually becomes a buffet of techniques "demonstrated" by selected artists, which is the weakest segment of the book. Still, if you want to explore this medium, you'll be well-served even if you've been into acrylics for years (which was my case).

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