

## Garden Rock Painting



### INTRODUCTION

This project demonstrates using Liquitex Acrylic Gouache to paint a variety of designs and subjects onto found rocks.

The finished stones make a nice addition to a garden, entry way, bookshelf, or can even be used as paper weights. Rock painting is a fun activity for all ages and can be an especially great activity to do with kids. This project is suitable for all skill levels from beginner to advanced painters.

Time: 2-3 hours recommended (depending on detail and the number and size of rocks).

#### NOTE

Acrylic paint will stain clothes if not washed off right away. Wear paint clothes or an apron just in case!

Also, keep paint brushes in your water cup while not using them so they stay wet. Acrylic paint dries very quickly, and if it dries on a brush, the brush will be ruined.

### MATERIALS LIST

1. Rocks in a variety of shapes and sizes
  2. Liquitex Gesso (White, Black or Clear depending on intended design)
  3. Liquitex Acrylic Gouache
  4. Paint brushes in a variety of sizes, including a fine brush for detail
  5. A palette knife
  6. Liquitex Varnish in your desired sheen (High Gloss, Gloss, Satin or Matte)
  7. A palette or surface to mix paint on
  8. A container for water
- Optional:**
- Liquitex Acrylic Markers
  - Liquitex Pouring Medium





## PROJECT STEPS



### STEP 1:

#### Collecting the Rocks

Go for a walk in an area that is likely to have rocks, like a park, beach, or woods. Gather a range of different sized and shaped rocks to ensure a variety of options for painting. Think about what the rocks naturally look like without paint on them. They might be imagined as objects like a strawberry, frog, plant, or curled up cat to name just a few. For graphic designs it is ideal to select rocks that are flatter and smoother on top. Wash any dirt of the rocks with soap and water. This will allow the paint to applied smoothly. Dry the rocks off with a towel before the next step.



### STEP 2:

#### Preparing the Rocks

Make sure to lay something down to protect the table or work surface you are using as painting rocks can be messy. Use Liquitex Gesso to prime the rocks for painting once they're dry (Liquitex Black Gesso can also be used if the base color is going to be black or a dark color). Gesso prepares the surface to receive paint by preventing it from absorbing into the surface too much. This will save you from having to reapply paint multiple times depending upon paint transparency. Some rocks can be left unprimed if the end goal is to have bare or exposed rock in the design. You may also consider Liquitex Clear Gesso which will prime the surface and let the exposed rock show through.



### STEP 3:

#### Painting the Base Layer

Once the gesso layer is dry, paint the base color for the rock design. The base color should be the most predominant color in your planned design. For instance, for a strawberry you can paint the whole rock red at this stage or for a cactus paint the whole rock green.

Mix colors with a palette knife and make enough to ensure you do not run out of the color you need as it can be tricky and time consuming to mix the exact color again. You can even use pouring techniques with Liquitex Pouring Medium to cover the rocks. Just remember to elevate the rock on a grated surface (like a drying rack for baking) so that the paint does not pool on the bottom of the rock.



## PROJECT STEPS



### STEP 4:

#### Painting the Details

Once the base color coats are touch dry, details can be applied on top. One great aspect of Liquitex Acrylic Gouache is that it can be layered easily without the under color showing through and without disrupting the base colors. For instance, painting a green stem on a red base will look just as vibrant as if it were painted on white. A detail brush or Liquitex Acrylic Markers can be great options for fine and precise detail like words, eyes, spots, dots, and thin lines.



### STEP 5:

#### Varnishing the Rocks

Once details are touch dry, finish the rocks by coating them with Liquitex Varnish, in your desired sheen (High Gloss, Gloss, Satin or Matte). With a clean brush, paint two thin coats of the varnish over the painted surface waiting at least 3 minutes in between coats. Varnish will unify the sheen of the surface and boost brightness and color saturation. Liquitex Acrylic Varnish is waterproof and protects colors from fading and surface damage.



Let dry and place in garden!



## ABOUT LIQUITEX ACRYLIC GOUACHE



Liquitex Acrylic Gouache is a great paint for this project because it is permanent (will not wash off or wear down easily), opaque, and dries with a flat and even surface. It is ready to use and will paint nicely right out of the tube, so there is no need to add any water to it. Matte medium can be added if thinning is desired.

Liquitex Acrylic Gouache also includes mostly permanent or lightfast colors (which means they will not fade easily from regular sun exposure) making it a great outdoor paint. Use lightfast non-fading pigments. Check this by looking at the paint tube. If it says "Lightfastness: 1 - Excellent" that means it will be great for outdoor use.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



### Kristen Brown

Kristen Brown is a San Francisco-based artist originally from Saskatchewan, Canada. Her paintings explore the themes of dissociation, transience, memory, and truth. She utilizes blurred and slightly distorted images to embody a disruption in the way certain events are processed, resembling sorting through memories that feel fragmented or scattered.

Kristen exhibits at museums and galleries across the United States and Canada and was awarded a major painting grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation in Montreal. She holds a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Saskatchewan and an MFA in Painting from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Kristen is also an art instructor and conducts Liquitex and Winsor & Newton art materials demos for The Fine Art Collective throughout central and northern California.

Website: [www.kristenbrownart.com](http://www.kristenbrownart.com) / Instagram: @kristen\_brown\_art

FOR MORE INSPIRATION, VISIT: <https://www.liquitex.com/us/>

## ABOUT LIQUITEX

### FOUNDED 1955

Challenging the established ways of doing things is in our DNA. It's how we invented the first water-based acrylic paint, and the reason why we have been innovating ever since. Empowering all artists to create with confidence and no limits. Challenging the established ways of doing things is in our DNA. It's how we invented the first water-based acrylic paint, and the reason why we have been innovating ever since. Empowering all artists to create with confidence and no limits.

