

DIY Room Décor: Painted Fabric Wall Art with Courtney Cerruti

Chapter 1 - DIY Wall Art

Painted wall decor

>> Hi, I'm Courtney from Creativebug, and I'm going to show you how to paint on a really large scale. We'll be painting on fabric, and you won't need any previous painting experience to do this. It's one of my favorite projects. Once we have our painted fabric, we're going to mount that into embroidery hoops of all sizes to create a really impactful and stunning piece of wall art. This is light weight and very versatile, so that you can hang it over a couch or even over a bed. It's really easy to do, and it's super-super-fun. You'll need to gather some art materials for this. You'll need about two yards of a cotton weight fabric, a spray bottle, a variety of acrylic craft paints in a color way that you like. I'm sticking with mostly cool colors here, teal, blues, and then I'm doing a little bit of purple with just a few pink accents; you can choose anything that you like. You'll also need a jar of water because we're painting, embroidery hoops in a variety of sizes, some kind of painting palette. You could even use a muffin tin. Something that has little wells is nice because we're going to add some water. And it's nice to have something that your brush will fit in. I like to have inexpensive coarse-bristle brushes for this project and I have a few so that I can switch between colors without having to wash my brush. A foam brush is always handy, a utility knife, and a pair of scissors. And I've protected my table with some paper. If your fabric has a lot of creases in it, you should fold it or throw it in the dryer so that when you're painting, that doesn't leave odd marks as you go. Remember to protect your table because we're going to use a lot of water here, and I've cut my fabric in half because it's easier to work on half of it at a time. We're going to start by just spraying this down lightly. You can even switch to do more concentrated areas. And the reason I'm doing this is because the paint will take to the wet areas differently than the dry areas, and those effects are really unpredictable and super-cool. I've put different colors in my muffin tin or palette here, and I'm getting my brush pretty wet. And we're going to do a variety of wet brush strokes and dry brush strokes. There's not a lot of rules to this. We're just going to see how the paint lays down on the fabric and react to it. I'm not getting a ton of paint. I'm just dipping the tips of this brush into the paint and just going back and forth. And the really wet areas, or if you water down your paint a lot, it's going to dry a little bit lighter, so just keep that in mind. Let's do some darker color, dab some purple in here. You can splatter it. This is really light. That's going to dry almost completely transparent. Something like that's a little better. You can see how the paint disperses on the part of the fabric that's already wet versus the way it stays pretty much just as a splatter, like with an even circle, on places where the fabric is dry. And I love that. I love that unpredictability. Let's go for some more aqua. You can leave a lot of white space, just a little bit of white space. I definitely recommend painting right to the edge so that you can use all of your fabric. But I do think some white space is nice because it helps activate the space with a lot of color. It's totally up to you about how the proportions are going to be. I'm just mixing. I'm being super-careless with this and that is fine. This pink actually has some metallic in it which is kind of cool. Trying to get, like, a deeper kind of color. Let's do some brush strokes. Come back in with your water. Remember to go all the way to the edge. I feel like I want some blue on this side also. You can switch brushes if you want. Grabbing my foam brush which I can use to make more repetitive, controlled marks. Make these little dashes if that's something you might want to try. You could also do more chevron shapes just by using the tip. We're going to be cutting this up, so you may retain some of this pattern or it may become completely abstract just by

cutting it along these marks. You just don't know. It's fun to do a little bit of everything. I'm going to go back to blue. You can paint over things. This part is so much fun, like really, no rules. Try not to overwork any sections because you don't want it to become too muddy. If that happens, you can let it dry and just paint over it again in those areas. Do some splatters, do a concentration of splatters. I haven't used a lot of this dark teal. Maybe I'll put that in here. Right to the edge. Going here and make some marks. This area definitely needs some splatter action. And as this settles as you're painting, this is where we just splattered. And if you come over here and look, you can see how that splatter has really traveled, and it looks like marbled paper which I absolutely love. It's really fun to work with this wet on wet method because you really don't know what results will happen. And that's just part of the fun. Just embrace it. If you hate it, absolutely hate it, you can cut it up. But you could also just paint right over it. You're going to go ahead and paint your other half in a similar way. You could switch up your colors. You could add more splatter or less splatter, whatever you desire. But you do have to let both pieces dry before we can move on to our next step. Depending on how you dry your piece, there may be a few wrinkles. You could iron them out, or if they're pretty small, then you can actually stretch them out when we mount our fabric into our embroidery hoops. This is really fun because depending on your size of embroidery hoop or whatever you're working with size-wise, you can kind of move your embroidery hoop around until you find a framing that you like. An embroidery hoop has two pieces, and the hardware is usually at the top. We can actually put a nail and use this hardware to hang or because there's depth, we can use that half-inch or so to just prop this on a nail when we hang it on the wall. You're going to make several of these, so you have an opportunity to do several little framings. I think I like that spot because I have a strong striation here, a little bit of white space and a little bit of my splatters. I'm going to just roughly cut around this leaving maybe an inch or so. If you're trying to get the most bang for your buck, you may want to do this on the floor or a really large table and lay out all your embroidery hoops so that you're economizing how much fabric you're using in each. I'm not as worried about that. It gives me an excuse to paint more. Just move this away. Move the outer part with the hardware. And then place your fabric over the inside ring, and then just shimmy your outer ring on top. You're going to pull down so that this fabric is nice and taut, and make sure that you're lining your hardware up so you have the right orientation, the correct orientation. I don't want the striations coming down. I want them to be parallel to the floor let's say. So I'm just going to replace that outer ring so that this is a little straighter. And that's just my preference. There's no right or wrong way to do this. Pull down along the edge of your fabric just until this is nice and snug, and then you can tighten your embroidery hoop just by twisting the screw on the top hardware. You can re-tighten then too if you pressed anything out of place. This is such a great project because it's so versatile and you could easily change out the fabric in these hoops. You could paint more canvases or you could use purchased fabric as well. If you are going to change this out and you want to come back and place the same fabric back in these hoops, you probably want to cut a larger rim around the back and tape it on the inside so it's not permanent. Because I know that I'm going to leave this fabric in this hoop, I'm going to trim this right to the edge just using a utility blade. I'm just going to run that along the edge of the embroidery hoop. Careful not to cut yourself because it's sharp. Try to hold and pull on the fabric a little as I cut around. But you can see it gives you, like, a perfectly clean edge. If you weren't going to do that, you would cut this with the wider margin and just tape it on the inside with masking tape. If you use hot glue, then you're not going to be able to get this apart later. I love this one because of the color palette. It looks a little bit like a little planet. But this is so much fun. You would continue just mounting your fabric in a variety of embroidery hoops. And

then to hang them, you could arrange them on the floor until you like a placement. And just using a single small nail, hang them on the wall just like that. Because they're light weight, you could easily hang them over a bed or over a sofa. The painting part of this is so much fun for me. You could easily do this in an afternoon. It's such a great, gestural, and free form of painting, and because it is so simple to put together, you could easily do it for a party or any space in your house.