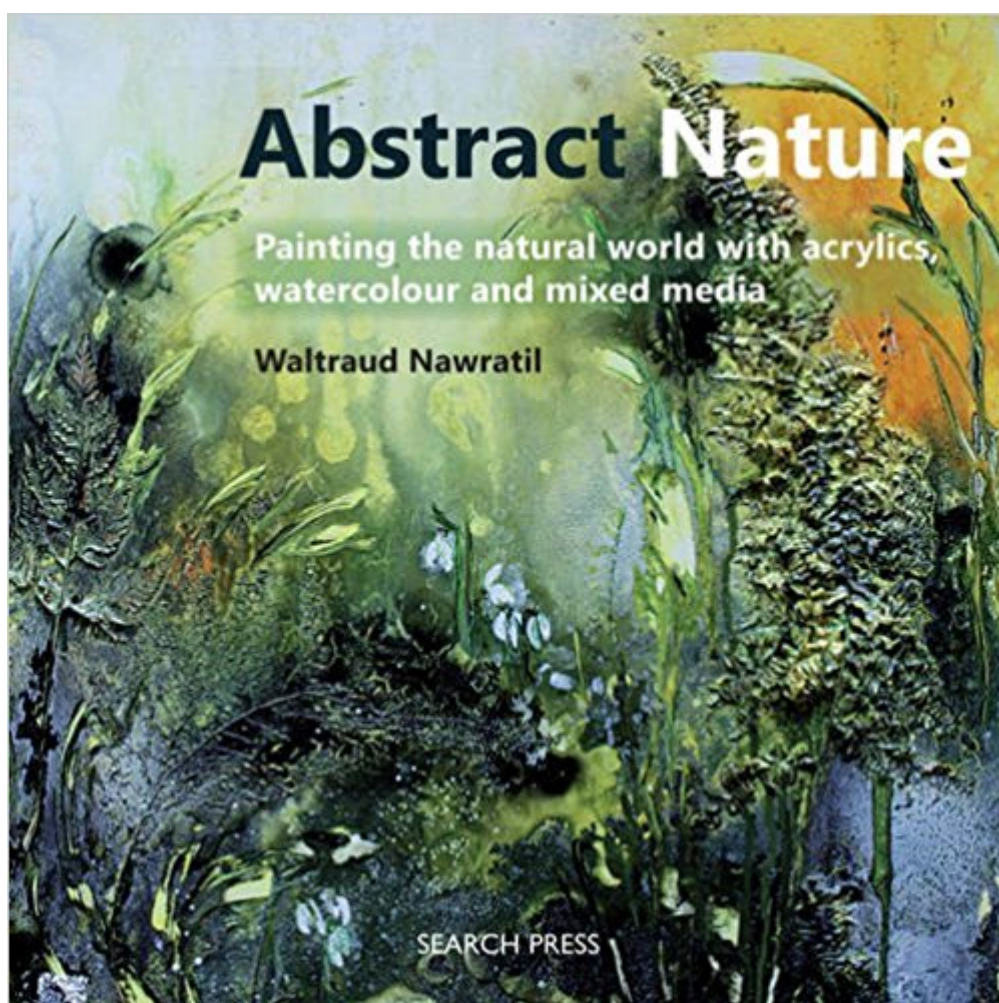




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Abstract Nature: Expressing The Natural World With Acrylics, Watercolour And Mixed Media



Synopsis

German artist Waltraud Nawratil shows you how to combine a love for nature with a passion for expressive painting. *Abstract Nature* is divided into helpful sections to teach the reader how to use acrylics, watercolors, airbrushing, putty and stencils, as well as natural materials such as sand, bark and leaves to create captivating pictures full of color and vitality. There is a wealth of stunning abstract pieces from the artists, which will provide inspiration for more experienced painters as well as the beginner. The book covers the variations through all seasons teaching the reader to see the natural world with creativity and a unique, new perspective.

Book Information

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#48 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Mixed Media](#)

Customer Reviews

With its compact format, stunning paintings and individual style, this book should appeal to any lover of painting nature. The book is split into Materials, Techniques, Inspiration, and Seasonal Paintings with loose step by step instructions and tips. The paintings are vivid depictions of trees and flowers with energising brushstrokes. The artist uses acrylic, watercolour, airbrush paints and spray varnish as well as a number of modifiers and additions such as powders and pastes. She discusses her techniques, amply illustrated with examples of work. The subject matter is the natural world. Leaves are attached to the canvas and painted over, delineated whilst backgrounds form an almost uniform haze so as not to detract. She adds texture with sand, bark, tissue or paste. Alternatively, leaves are used for printing. It is an interesting book with unusual depictions of flowers and landscape scenes. As abstract work goes, the subject matter is actually easily distinguishable, an interesting textured style. * YarnsandFabrics.co.uk * Beautifully presented book, well laid out and with beautiful

illustrations. Not as 'abstract' as I thought, more like the mixed media work I teach, but a great book for all that and full of ideas which my (adult) students will find inspirational and one or two ideas of techniques which I've been reminded of myself. Plenty of information and close ups of paintings so you have all you need to try the techniques without it being too didactic. The book is particularly good for those who like to work with acrylic, a book full of colour and covers materials, painting techniques and sources of inspiration as well as showing paintings throughout the seasons. * Sonia Hawes * The Austrian artist Waltraud Nawratil wants to paint pictures that radiate happiness and are able to transmit the happiness to the observer. In her colourful motifs she combines the softness of watercolour with the strength and dynamism of acrylic painting. In this book you will see the seasonal changes in plants like flowers and trees over the course of a year. In the first chapter Waltraud Nawratil tells something about the materials and tools she uses. For her mixed media technique, she needs brushes as well as unusual things like spatulas, roller and palette knives. She prefers a mixture of acrylic paints, spray varnish, aquarelle watercolors and airbrush paints. Additional materials like marble powder, paste, acrylic binder, pressed bark or leaves and stencils are other important elements of her pictures. The following chapter gives an overview of the preferred painting techniques and of a lot of examples. Valuable tips from her art studio help to avoid mistakes and give you interesting suggestions for image correction that are easily done with acryl paint. The author searches and finds inspiration in nature. When a painter runs out of ideas he should walk amongst nature. The variety of colours and motifs inspires everyone. Every season has its own flowers and trees. The next section follows the course of the seasons and shows the differences in the motifs and the chosen colours. The chapter "Spring" starts painting with six examples step by step. A full page illustration and a detailed view assist a detailed text description, that also contains a detailed list of materials colours and tools There are examples for every taste (Flowering dandelion, poppy and wild cumin, ox-eye daisy, birch trees in spring, spring mood in the forest) The other season are discussed equally detailed. The in the beginning shown true-to-nature examples get with new variations progressively more abstracted. At that the artist's experiments with different passepartouts, which she sprinkles with sand. In the final chapter Waltraud Nawratil shows us a gallery of a few examples of nature in different variations. Conclusion: Abstract nature is intended for advanced painters, who search ideas and inspiration for their own interpretations of nature studies with the mixed media technic. Not the exact step by step drawing is important, but the reading of informative texts, the observation of expressive, colorful pictures by W. Nawratil and of course the development of a personal abstract style.

<http://kreativreview.blogspot.co.uk/2016/10/abstract-nature-by-waltraud-nawratil.html> * Kreative

Review * If you're interested in abstraction but unsure of where and how to get started, this is a very good jumping-off point. Each demonstration occupies only 2 or 4 pages and is very straightforward, with a finished result, an enlarged detail, a materials list and a short series of simple steps. There is guidance in the introductory section on basic techniques and what to look for. In truth, this isn't pure abstraction, and every example is easily recognisable. Rather, it's more an exploration of the limits of representation, and it's none the worse for that. Abstraction itself is the culmination of a journey of which this is a part and you should be able to take further steps yourself once you've mastered the basic * www.artbookreview.net * Dec 16

Abstract Nature by Austrian artist Waltraud Nawratil looks at how to paint the natural world with acrylics, watercolour and mixed media. But rather than simply painting what she sees, Waltraud show us how to capture emotion you feel when looking at a particular scene and translate it into paint. Painting techniques and media are clearly explained before moving on to finding inspiration in the natural world throughout the year, and through the seasons with flowers and trees. The book includes step-by-step demonstrations and plenty of practical advice on abstracting the essence of what you see in the world around you. * **The Leisure Painter** * Inside this book is a liberating, freer approach to depicting nature that draws upon abstract styles and makes use of a lot more than just paint. Using acrylics, watercolors and mixed media the artist shows you how to produce bold, imaginative work that brings the natural world to vibrant life. This is not a book aimed at the beginning artist but to those with experience who want to try something fresh and new. The artist uses a wide variety of materials beyond just the standard paints and brushes including stencils, pressed bark and found objects. Not only acrylics and watercolors are used either; airbrush paints, marble powder, pastes, binders and more are made use of so anybody attempting this type of work might be advised to stock up on more than just the basics. Following on from this is a section on using the various media with plenty of examples and inspiration. The rest of the book contains twenty-two projects, not the usual Search Press type with lots of photographic stages but briefer. These are organized in seasons, with each project covering two pages. There is a page-sized photograph of the finished piece plus a list of what you need and step by step instructions in five to six written stages. Subjects include flowers such as dandelions, ferns, daisies, poppies (several of these), trees, a pond, meadow scene and more. Describing them as abstract stretches the term somewhat as it is easy to see what the paintings depict; rather they are a freer, looser style which gives a vigorous outdoor appearance suitable to the subjects. At the back is a gallery where the author suggests people utilise the pictures as inspiration for their own, concluding a refreshingly different approach to painting nature. * myshelf.com * Feb 2017 This book (translated from German) that demands a one word summing up and the word that comes to mind is

visceral. You may also feel that it shouts at you. Both the content and the presentation are so bright and there is a constant sensation that you (or it) are standing too close, that a step back might allow you to take in the bigger picture. Take time to get used to this, you'll find a novel and interesting approach. The cover blurb refers to '22 stunning projects' and they're certainly stunning. Using the seasons provides a neat framework and a narrative, though, and Waltraud's style is more interpretative than full on abstraction, providing an easier way in. This won't be for everyone, but does make you think. * The Artist *

Waltraud Nawratil has always been inspired by the natural world, choosing subjects from her surroundings with vibrant and attractive colors. She began her artistic career with watercolors before moving on to experiment with other techniques and media. Waltraud has worked as a freelance painter since 1995 and today she offers painting courses combining watercolor and acrylic painting techniques. She encourages her students to attempt variations on ordinary subjects in order to gradually develop their own style. Waltraud works from her own studio near where she lives in Schöfönering, Upper Austria. Some of her pieces are available via the artists' platform International Graphics.

Hoped for a lot more from this book. The kinds of abstraction the title refers to are not of the modernist kind that interest me. Too much flowery painting in here.

Very good book. I am new to abstract acrylic painting and I like nature so I was looking for some techniques. This book has what I was looking to learn.

Wonderful book full of surprising and easy solutions for alternative effects. Highly recommended to both new beginners and those who are more advanced.

I learned a lot about techniques and materials I did not even know existed. I recommend this book.

Love this book.

Great reference and creative reading.

This book is good for beginning Mixed-Media artist. I will be returning this book because it did not

hold my interest in new techniques, as an advanced Mixed-Media artist.

Very good, especially if you work with acrylics. Am looking forward to trying some of the step by step exercises with watercolour. Packaging was good too.

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