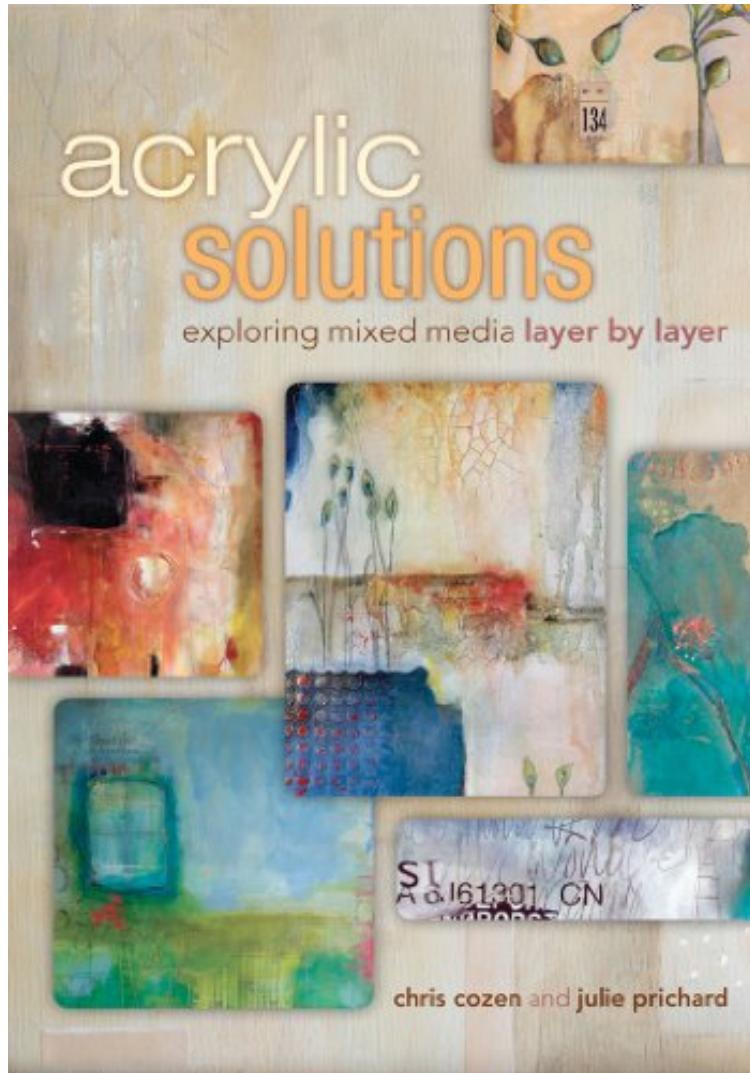


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Acrylic Solutions: Exploring Mixed Media Layer by Layer

Chris Cozen, Julie Prichard
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Chris Cozen, Julie Prichard : Acrylic Solutions: Exploring Mixed Media Layer by Layer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Acrylic Solutions: Exploring Mixed Media Layer by Layer:

104 of 107 people found the following review helpful. Game ChangerBy CarmenI only recently discovered Julie Prichard and serendipitously it was at the same time as she was releasing this book with Chris Cozen. (Who I had yet to discover.) At the time the book on was £16.99 and I will admit I thought that was expensive. I searched everywhere to try and get it cheaper. (I'd like to inject here that I'm not a Scrooge just really skint.) About the same time I won £10.00 online with one of those free birthday lotteries - it seemed the Fates wanted me to buy this book. So I did. First impressions - the book is a nice size. Hardbacked and roughly 11x9" and 127 pages (incl index

etc.) The pages are spiral bound and I have found this format excellent for working through the book. It either lays flat or, if I'm short of space I can stand it on end without fear of losing my place or it falling over. The authors both very openly admit that they purely use only GOLDEN products. They also say that's just their preference and to experiment and see what works best for you. I have seen some reviews slamming them for this and I'm not sure why. I don't own a single GOLDEN product - never tried that brand, just haven't found any where I shop. I worked through this book with what I had on hand - this was Liquitex and the Winsor Newton Galleria mediums, Kaiser Colour, Eco and Liquitex Basics paints plus my big old tub of white gesso. (I think that might be WN too.) The techniques worked very well for me - so if you are put off the book because of the GOLDEN references and can't be bothered to see what is actually available to you - the book won't be for you. And it will be your loss. The main body of the book comes in 5 chapters: 1 - The Basics: design, colour, materials and more 2 - Laying a Good Foundation 3 - Adding Structure 4 - Developing Complexity 5 - Finessing the Details. Every page of the book is scattered with beautiful examples from both Julie and Chris and there are various step by step exercises with clear pictures throughout the chapters for you to complete. Again - I didn't have all the colours they used and sometimes not all the different textured mediums. I just used what I have. Hands up - I am still only two thirds through this book but I got to page 24 and realised this was not a book you just read. This is a book you work through. To me it feels like a workshop in book form. So I went back to the beginning and started afresh. I still haven't finished the book because I keep stopping to try everything out. I have been 'messing about' with Acrylics for a couple of years but never got past feeling like I was just messing about. No matter how I researched I never did understand what all the mediums did. Or how to blend and get depth. The mediums are explained clearly over and over again. What they do, how they work with other mediums, water, paint etc. Never again will I stand in The Range looking at the shelves and just... not know. I have a shopping list pages long of things I want to try, different mediums and tools. It's not all new - I love my texture and drips but I've learnt new ways of incorporating them, layering them, blending them. Bringing it all together - knowing when to stop. This book, hand on heart, has already become the most used and abused art book I own. The cover and pages splattered in paint. I no longer think the initial £16.99 was expensive - although, already it can be bought much cheaper than that. I actually think the amount of information packed in here, for me, they have been incredibly generous. *Acrylic Solutions* is a book I will refer back to again and again. It's been a game changer. (Adapted from a review on my blog where I also include pictures of things I've done while working through the book.)

41 of 43 people found the following review helpful. The most informative and helpful Acrylics/Mixed Media book I have found.

By S. M. I have a large collection of art books, since painting with acrylic is has been my hobby/passion for a few years now. This one is my favorite. Here's why: I love the featured artwork from two excellent yet very different artists. The techniques up to date and range from basics to more advanced, interesting applications and are organized in an easy to follow way. Most insightful and inspiring.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Teaches how to develop an abstract painting layer by layer.

By Paula K. Fontanini Excellent book with carefully crafted step by step instructions on how to add depth and interest to acrylic paintings. If you -- like me -- are interested in learning to paint more abstractly, you will appreciate the level of detail with which the authors have written the book. You have a very instructive book written by authors who really understand the acrylic materials and how to use them as well as how to develop your abstract painting.

Fresh new ways to create fabulous paintings with mixed media techniques! *Acrylic Solutions* provides the "hows" behind a multitude of effects you've admired in other artists' works--and then some! Based on the popular online teaching collaboration of Chris Cozen and Julie Prichard, this book illustrates a wealth of layering methods and techniques. Mix and match to achieve countless variations, building layer upon layer to create unique and wonderfully complex abstract art. Learn more than 30 step-by-step techniques for developing texture and visual interest, including collage, monoprinting, carving, color blocking, paint skins, raised stencils, glazing and so much more. Chapters explore the phases of a multi-layered painting, from surface preparation through adding structure, developing complexity and adding finishing touches. Follow the development of two paintings as each layer adds to the finished result, with tons of additional artwork throughout. Gain insight on how to make paints, mediums and grounds work for you. Embracing a spirit of freedom and spontaneity, *Acrylic Solutions* is a stimulating guide for contemporary artists of any skill level. Beginners will learn how to make visually compelling paintings from start to finish, while more experienced artists will find the tools and inspiration to take their work to the next level.

About the Author

Chris Cozen is a member of the Working Artist Program for Golden Artist Colors, Inc. She lectures and teaches throughout Southern California. She is the author of three books on acrylic techniques. Visit Chris at chriscozenartist.typepad.com/my-blog/. Julie Prichard is the author of several successful online teaching workshops. Visit Julie at www.TheLandofLostLuggage.com.