Moody Tree – Paint Pouring and Mixed Media

What you need:

- Pencil
- Aluminum Foil to Make a Tray
- Black Sharpie or Black Paint
- Blank Paper
- A Flat Paint Brush (1/4")
- White Glue

- Three to Five Craft Acrylic Paint Colours
- Container or Mason Jar Tops for Canvas Board
- Canvas Board or Stretched Canvas (8x10" or 9x12")
- Newspaper or Plastic Table Cloth for your Working Area

Note: If you are using a canvas board, you will need a hard surface on which to place the aluminum try and for handling such as a board. If you use a stretched canvas, you will not need any container tops under the canvas as you can pick the canvas edges up and tilt over the aluminum try to spread the paint. It will get a little messy, so use disposable gloves if you have.

Preparation

Make the aluminum try with the foil. It has to have a raised edge to catch the excess poured paint.

If you use a canvas board, you must use some container tops to put under the canvas board to keep it raised off the aluminum tray. If you use a stretched canvas, you do not need any raised items as the stretched canvas is already on a frame.

Into a small disposable container, pour each of your craft paint colours on top of each other. DO NOT STIR the paint once it is in the cup. If you have an 8x10" canvas, about two inches of paint in the cup is enough. If you have a 9x12" canvas, you will need about three inches of paint in the cup.

Note: Depending on the craft paint colours used, you can create different moods in this painting. A scary night, sunny morning, fall day, etc.
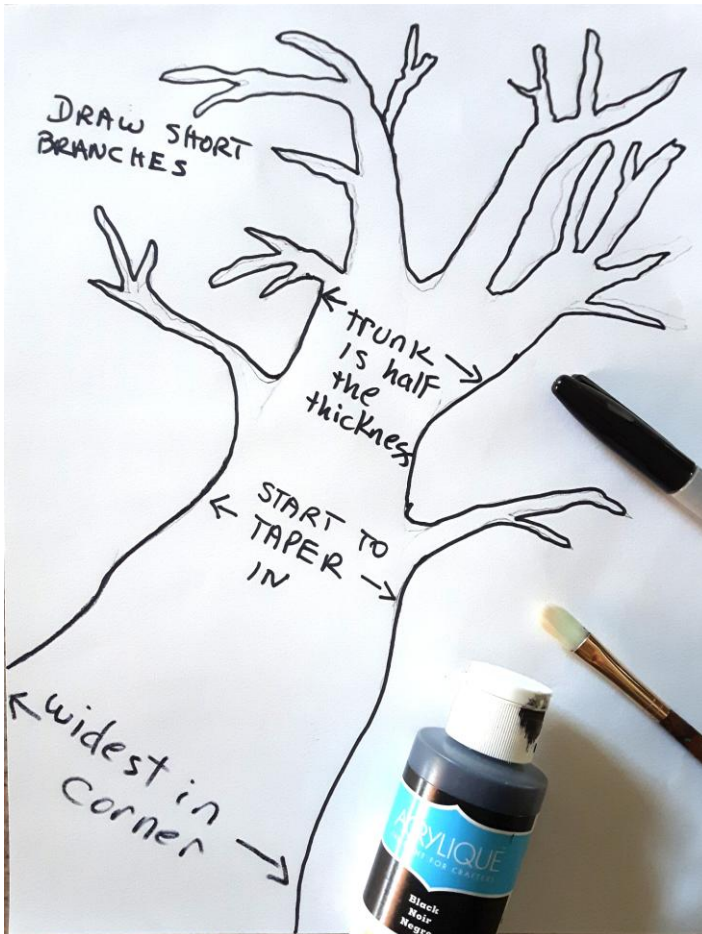

Pouring the Paint

Centre your canvas on top of the cup of paint and turn the canvas over while holding the cup firmly in place. Now, with the cup on top of the canvas, lower the canvas onto the aluminum try. Lift the cup up and watch the paint spread. Pick up the tray and your hard surface and tilt it in various directions to cover the whole canvas with paint. Let the paint spill over the sides and into the aluminum tray. Once done, let the paint dry for 24 hours.

Note: If you do not have enough paint to cover the entire canvas, you can add a little more of one colour directly onto the canvas. Try to do this early in the tilting process so it can mix with the other colours.

Final Stage – Drawing the Tree

For our painting, we want to allow our swirling colours to become the sky, leaves and mood. The tree will be our foreground to create some depth.
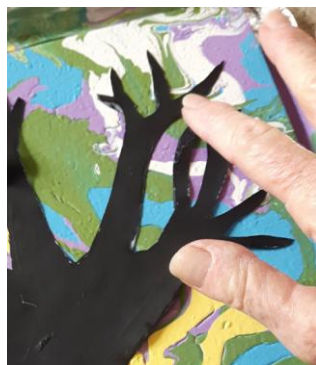
To create the tree, you can either draw or paint it right onto the canvas with black marker or paint. You can also go the mixed media route and draw the tree on a blank piece of paper.

To give the perspective of looking upward at the tree while standing near the base, start to draw the tree trunk in one corner of the canvas or paper. Draw the tree trunk with the widest part at the base and then start to taper or narrow the tree trunk as you extend it upward. Add branches to the top of the tree.

Use a black marker or paint to fill in the entire tree. To paint the thinner branches, turn the flat brush on its side. Let the tree dry and then cut it out.

Tip: *If branches curl after cutting, use a pencil and roll the branch in the opposite direction to flatten it out.*

Spread glue on the entire back of the tree and lay it onto your painting, starting in one corner. Press firmly onto painting.

Tip: Pencil rolling branches to flatten before gluing.