

Materials:

Soil, air dried and sieved to 2mm

- Clear gesso
- Canvas
- Paint brushes
- Clear varnish
- Paint containers

Methods:

Preparing the soil:

1. Air dry selected soils
2. Sieve soil through 2mm sieve

Preparing the paint:

1. Place a cup of sieved soil in a container, add ~1/8 cup of water bringing the mixture to a paste-like consistency.
2. Add ~1/8 cup of clear gesso to the mixture bringing it to an acrylic paint-like consistency.
3. Repeat for each soil color.

Prepping the canvas:

1. With a pencil, draw desired design on canvas
2. Prime the canvas with a clear coat of gesso

Painting the canvas:

1. Build up layers of soil paint slowly allowing each coat to dry thoroughly before adding the next layer. Most pieces will take 3-5 layers of paint to achieve depth and full coverage.
2. After the painting is completed and thoroughly dry, coat canvas with a spray-on clear varnish. 2-3 layers of varnish should suffice.

Tips:

- Soil with high levels of organic matter (>10%) do not lend themselves to soil painting due to the tendency to crack and chip off of the canvas.
- Prepping the canvas with light colored soil paint allows for less layers of paint for a full coverage. There are however difficulties drawing with pencil over the rough surface of soil paint on the canvas
- Paintings should be framed with UV reflecting glass or kept out of sunlight as this may cause the colors to change
- It is generally best to paint several layers, letting the layers dry before adding more soil paint in order to get good coverage

