

# 4

## Varnishing Instructions - for Impasto Pieces

### Why Varnish?

Some have wondered the usefulness of varnishing an acrylic painting. Here are some reasons why you should seal the paint pores to keep out:

- Dirt
- Bathroom moisture
- Kitchen grease
- Cigarette smoke
- Incense smoke
- Smog
- People's germs/sneezing around it
- Light that fades colors
- Expansion of heat
- Contraction of cold
- Wind from open windows
- Preserve a painting over time
- Adds a nice sheen

# 5

## Varnishing Instructions - for Impasto Pieces

### How to Varnish:

If you want to get a picture of your nicely arranged painting, it may be good to get one before varnishing so as to avoid glare. Take the painting out in noon-day sun and place on an easel or the ground propped against a wall, and angle it just right to get the nice shadows that come from the thicker impasto paint dimension. Take a few photos with different settings to get a nice range. You might want to look at those on the computer right away to make sure you got a good shot. A photo can be fun to send to a friend through email, to another friend's phone, or post on Facebook to show what fun you did.

Use a soft varnish brush and varnish mentioned in the supplies to get, and make sure the painting is dry and free of dust.

Pour out a small spot of varnish (nickel or quarter size) on the sheet protector the paint pieces came on. Avoid pouring a big spot of the varnish on the painting. If you don't brush it out fast enough, the puddle could leave dry lines since acrylic paint dries really fast.

When you pour varnish on your sheet again, use a new area, not the original spot, so as not to pick up any possible lumps from the varnish drying fast.

To minimize brush lines, apply a thin layer of varnish a little bit at a time, avoiding leaving any white of the varnish. If too much builds up, bubbles could appear when dry that can't be removed, and does not look good.

Brush in the direction of the painted grain so it looks more natural, instead of making varnish lines go across or up and down. That tends to not look as appealing, and varnish lines can be hidden better if they blend with the direction of the paint. Basically go over the painted lines in the same direction as if you were painting them again, but with varnish.

Cover all areas of the painting, canvas sides, and over the 3D impasto pieces and let dry. A large fan (free of dirt on the fan blades) can speed the drying up much faster.

Don't have the fan on while you are varnishing. After is ok, but you don't want the varnish to dry on you before you are done and get sticky. Then it makes lumps.

\*Note: You can use a spray varnish, but it stinks for a long time after spraying, is more expensive, does not shine as well, and needs re-applying, as it doesn't seem to last as long. There are no brush strokes with a spray varnish though, and some claim slight UV protection.