

# Art Alchemy!

## Texture Recipes

Instead of investing in a fortune on the professional grade archival brand texture bases like Golden when you're first learning or for prototype paintings, try out these close texture blends. You can also blend in paint pigments to colour them! If you'd like to make your own archival mix, upgrade the ingredients from glue to mat medium, and real talc instead of baby powder etc.

For all recipes: if the concoction is too liquid for your liking, gradually add more of the dry ingredient; and if it's too thick add more of the liquids per parts needed.

### **Molding Paste**

- 1 cup talc (baby powder or baking soda substitute)
- ½ cup Gesso (white acrylic substitute)
- ¼ cup of Glue (Elmer's glue or modge podge)

Measure and mix all the above ingredients and store in an air tight container. Use like you would Golden molding paste. For thicker paste add more talc.

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### **Fibre Paste**

- 2 parts Pulp (paper mache mix/tissue paper)
- 1 part Glue (Elmer's glue or modge podge)
- 1 part Water

Measure and mix the ingredients with a blender or beater for a really great mix.

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### **Pastel Ground**

- 1 part Gesso
- 1/5 part Grit (fine sand/ground pumice/marble dust)
- 1/5 part water

Measure the ingredients, mix the gesso and grit together and slowly add the water to get the consistency you'd like. Add more water if too thick.

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### **Crackle Paint**

- Acrylic paint (water it down till it has a similar consistency or runniness to your glue)
- Elmers Glue or Modge Podge
- Heat gun / hot air dryer

To get the crackle effect timing and layering are off essence. Paint a bottom layer the colour you want to show through the cracks. Let that layer dry. Then apply a healthy layer of glue, give it a couple

seconds and then carefully add the top paint layer right on top of the glue. Be careful not to blend the two layers. I find using my fingers works best. Then use your heat gun to dry the top layer.

The crackle effect works because the top acrylic layer dries faster than the glue layer below it; thus splitting apart on top. It is possible to taint your glue with paint pigment before application if you want a different look.

During the Art Alchemy class a sample texture sheet, and fibre paste layers were sent around to show the difference between the Golden product and its' homemade counterpart (which you'd never guess was homemade)!

This resource material was compiled by Christina Watts.