

DAVID DANIELS

Instructions

Following are my instructions for affixing a sheet of watercolor paper to an aluminum support. You are cautioned that the varnishing of a watercolor painting is a non-reversible addition to the artwork that will permanently change both the nature and appearance of your piece. Understanding these issues, as well as performing application testing, is critical before applying any varnish to a watercolor painting.

For more detailed information, visit

https://www.goldenpaints.com/technicalinfo/technicalinfo_archvarn

MATERIALS

- Blank sheet of watercolor paper
- Alupalite or stretched canvas. Alupalite is an archival Aluminum product used primarily by sign painters. Available at www.harborsales.net
- Acrylic soft gel (glue)
- MSA archival GLOSS varnish

PROCEDURE

1. The watercolor paper should be an inch larger on all four sides than your support.
2. If using Alupalite/D-Lite or other aluminum support, remove the adhesive protective backing, then sand the entire surface of the aluminum with a coarse sandpaper. This roughened surface allows for better adhesion.
3. Spread a liberal coat of acrylic soft gel on the support taking care to thoroughly cover all areas out all the way to the edges.
4. Carefully place the watercolor paper on top of the wet, glued surface, pressing down to secure and smooth the paper with your hands to remove wrinkles and any air pockets. There should be a 1" overhang.
5. Place heavy books on the top to help the paper adhere to the support.
6. Let dry over night.
7. Remove the books and, with the watercolor paper face down, trim the paper flush to the support with a mat knife or box cutter.
8. **When your complete painting is thoroughly dry** –Apply the first application of varnish. This is always the MSA gloss varnish which “sets” the paint and keeps the colors bright. It can be sprayed or brush on.
9. If a Satin or Matt surface is desired, it can be applied over the Gloss varnish.