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There?s no need to master drawing and painting to get started in home décor and proudly receive praise from your friends. As is often the case, you just need to try ? and to respect a few basic rules.

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1. What is home décor?

A creative hobby coupled with a true artistic dimension, home décor will allow you to personalize your home for a few pennies. The method: Create original paintings, guaranteed to be unique, on stretched canvas or other media.

- It?s easy to get started.
- No particular artistic skills needed.
- The results are always spectacular!

Trick of the Trade: Combine Utility with Artistry ?

While it generally has only a decorative function, a home décor painting may also assume a functional character.

- A little loving care will transform your creation into a hodge-podge or a souvenir!

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2. How to get started

Before beginning a piece, a single precaution rules: Get or-ga-ni-zed!

- Before beginning, sketch an outline of your subject as a draft of the same dimensions as your frame: this way, you can be assured that everything you wish to include will find its place. Afterwards, try different positions for the various elements of your painting.
- Begin by painting the background of your canvas: you can play with textures. Allow to dry well.
- Systematically test on a draft (or on a canvas that you reserve for drafts) the painting effects that you plan to use: check the results, and also the method of application.
- Work on each zone separately, after having marked the contours with masking tape.
- Always finish by affixing collages of fragile materials that are susceptible to soiling.

Trick of the Trade: How to Fix a Mistake

Don't Panic: To err is human! Above all, remember that the most radical methods are allowed in home décor: entirely repaint the concerned zone, scrap the volume ? If worse comes to worst, glue an object or smaller piece of canvas over the incriminating spot ? Your admirers will only see your passion!

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3. Secrets of a successful painting

- **Think in three dimensions:** Texturize your paintings, play with raised areas and superpositions, insert elements into your compositions (photos, crumpled paper, small glued objects ?).
- **Dare trompe l'oeil**

--Draw a flower that will come to rest in a real vase, glued to the frame.

--Dress your characters in garments from bits of fabric.

--Create an ethnic scene around a real wooden mask?

In short, anything is possible!

- **Cut, glue, trace** ? instead of trying to draw everything free-hand. A home décor painting is always a multi-element composition.
- **Play with geometry:** You can divide your work into several zones, each of which will be treated differently.

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--Create separations with the help of ribbons or twine.

- -Accentuate raised areas by gluing small frames onto your principal canvas.
- -Fragment your work using several frames in different dimensions that will form an ensemble when they are placed on the wall.

- **Plan your creation to complement the characteristics of its future environment**

--If spice collages and rice/coffee mosaics easily find their place in a kitchen, wriggling

turquoise fish (a non-food color *par excellence*) will surely brighten up a bathroom

--Consider that the general tone of your work should harmonize with the wall, and also with the rest of your décor.

and tall frames, staggered

--Favor horizontal shapes above a sofa,

at intervals, on the stairs.

4. Mistakes to avoid

Beware of too much! Although home décor is easy to do, you must learn to master your creativity.

Resist anything that is too?

- **Complicated:** Your friends will grasp your works with a single glance, and power often arises from simplicity.
- **Exhaustive:** Don't confuse homage with the encyclopedia. Africa is easily identified by an elephant, the silhouette of a woman carrying an infant on her back or a sunset in warm shades. No need for a map!
- **Eccentric:** A home décor painting tells a story. If certain elements don't integrate easily, save them for later use.
- **Realistic:** You will work much more serenely ? Too much realism can lead to fatal errors, of perspective, for example.
- **Naïve:** Save this style for your youngest's bedroom.
- **Abstract:** Offer your admirers some elements that allow them to understand that your approach is always welcoming.
- **Nice:** Unless you foresee a commercial enterprise, practice different ways to say "no" ? before your best friend leaves with your *chef d'oeuvre!*

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Painting effects, assorted papers, fabrics, strange objects: Home décor allows for infinite variety. Let your imagination run wild ? and admire the result!

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