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Home decoration: Choosing Your Materials

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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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1. The frame

Home décor paintings are done on stretched canvases of linen or cotton. They come in different sizes and shapes: square and rectangular, but also round and even triangular.

- You have the choice of classic frames (18mm thick) or ?3D? (35mm). 3D frames do not need any framing and create, on the whole, perceptible raised areas. You can combine the two models in a single composition.
- You may prefer to staple pre-primed canvases onto the back of the frame (rather than glue them on the sides), which would allow you to avoid having to prime them before starting to work.

Trick of the Trade: Original Media

As long as they are primed with the aid of an 'adhesive' medium specially designed for use in home décor, many surfaces are capable of being painted. Such is the case with wood (simple soft planks, but also duckboard, and even strips from blinds), metal, or various fabrics with which you wish to exploit motifs or textures.

2. Painting

- For the background, it's best to use very quick-drying acrylic paint, which can later be blended with another medium to modify the effect.
- Paint that is already textured (containing earth, sand, or even metal particles) can be used as is, and is readily available.
- '3D' paint is a thick variety of acrylic applied with a knife, spatula, comb, or with the aid of specific instruments to produce various effects.

That Little Extra: Try painting raised pearlized, sequined, or metallic areas for fine drawing or small subjects.

3. Decorative Paper



Cut, glued, or crumpled, paper is an inexhaustible source of inspiration because of its matter, texture, motifs or all that at once!

- **Colored:** smooth or grained, drawing paper comes in a number of shades. You can cut, glue, and also fold them. In this fashion, you can create small subjects, origami-style.
- **Tracing paper or stained glass:** Available in many colors, they are easily adapted to become leaves, windows, butterfly wings?
- **Silk or crêpe paper:** Rolled, folded, or crumpled, they easily create raised areas to dress a silhouette or transform into flowers. (homedeco-002-C)
- **Metallics:** Play on their reflections, in conjunction with small mirrors or even sequins.



Leather or parchment: A real *trompe-l'oeil*, they easily find their place in a composition honoring a writer, for example.

- **Craft or natural:** incrustated with flower petals or leaves, highly textured, it adapts seamlessly to ethnic, retro, and romantic environments.
- **Dyed foam:** Cut and glued, it becomes a two-dimensional object.
- **Paper napkins, wallpaper:** Take advantage of their décor! Glue them on your frames or trace the

motifs.

Trick of the Trade: Reproduce a Motif

Transfer paper allows you to trace any motif on a painting.

- Slide a book under the canvas.
- Position the sheet of transfer paper with the colored face against the canvas, then get the motif to be reproduced.
- Trace the outline with the aid of a pen. Lift it ? and *voilà!*

You can also create simple stencils on cardstock paper for simple shapes.



4. Materials to Include in your Paintings

- **Fabric**, lace, ribbons, wool, cotton canvases, and/or upholstery binding.
- **Pearls**, broken jewelry, small chains, feathers, sequins, and/or metallic thread.
- **String**, raffia, spices, and/or grains.
- **Sand**, stones, and pebbles, shells, twigs, tree bark, and/or dried moss.
- **Photos**, images and motifs found in magazines, postcards, books, musical scores, address labels, and/or small film posters.
- **Precut shapes** in cardboard or plywood (to reproduce the outline or glue onto your frame after having been painted and decorated), stencils, and/or ink stamps.
- **Modeling clay** (to be fired or not), to cut shapes with a choice of pastry cutters, molds, and/or stamp tips.
- **Mirrors**, small frames within which you will create a décor.
- **Small objects**: miniature toys, subjects created with cooked modeling clay, lustrous tassels, and/or springs, etc.

5. Indispensable Accessories

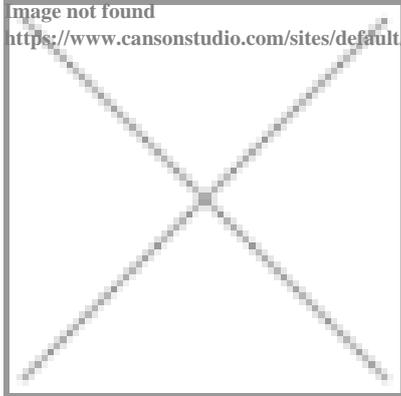
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- Scissors, utility knife, ruler, pencil, and eventually color pencils to discretely trace outlines.
- A selection of rollers and brushes (round, brush, stencil brushes, dry brushes, stencil brushes), preferably synthetic hair brushes.
- Spatula, painter's knife, comb, and even a toothbrush for painting effects.
- Masking tape to define clear margins.
- Vinyl glue in a tube or spray, designed for the materials that you intend to use. Varnish glue can also

- prove very practical to set and protect paper in a single operation.
- Finishing varnish (mat, satin, or brilliant) compatible with acrylic paint.

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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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