



Understanding Color MUD

Why it happens — and how to use it on purpose

Why Mud Happens

1. Mud happens when too many colors mix without intention.
2. Mixing all three primaries often creates brown or gray.
3. Complementary colors cancel each other out.
4. Dirty brushes and palettes muddy colors fast.
5. Overmixing removes freshness.

How to Avoid Mud

1. Limit mixes to two or three colors.
2. Add opposites in tiny amounts.
3. Mix on the palette, not the canvas.
4. Clean brushes often.
5. Let acrylic layers dry.

When Mud Is Good

1. Sand, rocks, driftwood
2. Background trees and distance
3. Shadows and stormy skies

"Mud isn't a mistake - it's just a color without a plan."