

# Painting: Abstract Multiples in Acrylic

Ruby Red Workshop  
Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:00 pm  
6-week session, April 16 – May 21, 2026  
Educator: Sarah Shay, [sahrshay@gmail.com](mailto:sahrshay@gmail.com)

## CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this six-week class, students will abandon the idea of working on just one painting at a time and dive into creating many at once! Students will explore the dynamic process of making multiple abstract paintings in tandem, developing a cohesive set of works while experimenting with style, texture, and color. Instruction will begin with essential acrylic painting techniques and a bite-sized introduction to color theory, followed by guided exploration of the medium. Students will learn to balance spontaneity and intention while keeping their paintings connected yet distinct. By the end of the course, students will have completed their own miniature body of work with four abstract acrylic paintings and will have gained the skills and confidence to keep creating beyond class. All skill levels are welcome; this class is perfect for curious beginners to seasoned artists looking to shake up their process.

### Pricing:

Museum Friend: \$240/ Member: \$255 / Student: \$255 / Non-Member: \$300

*\*Students will purchase their own materials and should expect to spend \$60-80.*

### Refund and Class Cancellation Policy:

The Denver Art Museum adheres to a no-refund, no-exchange policy. If you are unable to attend, please consider your payment a tax-deductible donation.

If a class or workshop is cancelled by the Denver Art Museum due to inclement weather or teacher illness, a make-up day will be scheduled on a later THURSDAY as the educator's schedule allows.

## **Accessibility Statement:**

To request large print materials, a sign language interpreter, CART or any other accessibility service, please email [access@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:access@denverartmuseum.org) at least ten (10) business days in advance of the program. We will make every effort to provide accommodation for requests made outside of that window of time.

Please see further information about accessibility, parking, and directions to the DAM here: <https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/accessibility>

## **Materials:**

Students must purchase their own materials and bring them to each class session. The anticipated materials spend is \$60-80.

The DAM partners with Denver-based [Meininger Art Material](#) to create class materials kits that can be ordered online and picked up or shipped locally. Students must pre-buy the kits online via the [Meininger's website](#) before picking up prior to the first day of class.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Suggested Link</b>
Canvas Pad, 10 – 12 Sheets	1 pad	<a href="#">Blick Canvas Pads</a>
Acrylic Paint Set, 12 colors	1 set	<a href="#">Blick Studio Acrylics - Set of 12 colors, 21 ml tubes</a>
Acrylic Paint Brush Set	1 set	<a href="#">Blick Scholastic Wonder White Synthetic Brushes and Sets</a>
Paint Pens	1 set	<a href="#">Posca Paint Markers - Set of 8, Assorted Colors, Medium Bullet Tip, 2.5 mm</a>

### **Note:**

Buy any version of these materials that you feel comfortable with. Each of these items is only a suggestion. If there are other brands, sizes, or similar materials you prefer, that works too. If you have any mixed media materials you like (ex: paint pens, markers, pastels, etc.) please be encouraged to bring them.

## **What to Expect:**

This class will begin with essential acrylic painting techniques and an introduction to color theory, followed by guided exploration of the medium. Students will learn to balance spontaneity and intention while keeping their paintings connected yet

distinct. Students will leave the class with multiple completed acrylic paintings and the skills and confidence to continue their artistic experimentation.

## Timeline:

### **Week 1 – Jump In: Techniques & Inspiration**

- Introduction to the course and “abstract multiples” concept
- Overview of acrylic painting tools, surfaces, and mediums
- Demo: brushwork, layering, and texture-making techniques
- Warm-up: small experimental studies to loosen up
- End-of-class group share & discussion

### **Week 2 – Color Play**

- Bite-sized color theory: mixing, contrast, harmony, and mood
- Creating a personal color palette for your series
- Begin first layers on multiple canvases at once
- End-of-class group share & discussion

### **Week 3 – Composition & Cohesion**

- Strategies for keeping multiple works visually connected yet unique
- Techniques for building depth and interest in abstract work
- Continued painting on your set of works, adding intentional layers
- End-of-class group share & discussion

### **Week 4 – Workday #1: Refining the Series**

- Open studio format with instructor guidance
- One-on-one check-ins to troubleshoot composition, color, and balance
- Focus on mid-stage development and adding complexity
- End-of-class group share & discussion

### **Week 5 – Workday #2: Pushing to Completion**

- Focus on bringing each piece toward resolution
- Strategies for knowing when a painting is “done”
- Time to make bold final adjustments
- End-of-class group share & discussion

### **Week 6 – Workday #3: Final Touches & Mini Exhibition**

- Complete and sign your works
- Group critique and reflection
- Informal mini-show of all student series in-class

- Celebration & class photo with your finished miniature body of work (4 paintings)

### **Educator:**

Sarah Shay is a Denver-based artist. For Sarah, painting is a means of slowing down and nourishing a connection within ourselves and with each other. Sarah studied Photography and Anthropology at the University of Iowa, and Arts and Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Teaching and learning are at the core of Sarah's painting practice, and Sarah has taught in K-12, Higher Education, and community-based programming in Colorado.

<https://www.instagram.com/sarahshaystudio/>

## **WORKSHOP SPACE POLICIES**

### **About:**

The Ruby Red Workshop is a dedicated space for Creative Classes and adult programs located on the first floor of the DAM's Martin Building. Students can expect a traditional style art workshop with tables and four-legged chairs with backrests. There are a variety of other seating options available. Sinks, soaps, paper towels, and waste receptacles are accessible in the workshop. Restrooms are located in the elevator bay just outside the workshop entrance. Food and beverages are allowed inside the workshop space, please ensure that you do not enter any galleries with these items.

Each class is different and does not follow a strict or set structure, but will generally include instructor presentations and demonstrations, class gallery visits to view artworks in the DAM collections, individual work time supported by class instructor and assistant, and discussion or share-out time of finished works and works-in-progress.

### **Cleanup:**

Please remove all artworks from the classroom at the end of each class. If wet paintings or in-progress artworks need to be stored in the classroom, there is limited storage on drying racks and in the equipment closet. Students must take home their own materials after each class. Please ensure that art supplies and equipment belonging to the DAM are put back in the appropriate locations. Sponges, paper towels, and cleaning solution are provided in the classroom for cleanup.

### Classroom Access:

Students will have access to the classroom only during scheduled class hours. Please contact Mia DeBakker, Creative & Public Engagement Coordinator, if you need to arrange entrance to the Workshop outside of those hours – [mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org).

## QUESTIONS

Questions about class content, curriculum, materials, etc. can be directed to Mia DeBakker at [mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:mdebakker@denverartmuseum.org) or Sarah Rockett at [srockett@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:srockett@denverartmuseum.org).

For any questions concerning your registration, please reach out to our Sales & Service Team at [info@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:info@denverartmuseum.org) or (720) 913-0130.

Thank you for being part of Creative Classes at the DAM!