



HOW TO CLEAN YOUR ARTWORK: PAINTINGS

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TRADITIONAL PAINTINGS

A typical acrylic or oil painting without a lot of texture can typically be dusted without much effort. A light blast of air can help dislodge most dust. You can also remove the painting from the wall and gently tapping the back of the canvas with your fingers.



TEXTURED PAINTINGS

If you have an artwork that has a heavy impasto technique, or textured, thick paint, it may have little grooves or shelves for dust to collect on. To clean these paintings, it is best to use a can of compressed air (as you might have to clean your computer keyboard) to gently blow the dust away.

WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS

If you have a watercolor which has a light amount of dust, you must not apply any water to clean. Even a lightly damp cloth may smudge the watercolor, particularly if it has not been properly treated. Compressed air is the best way to clean, but prevention is key here, so opt for a frame with a protective glass..



HISTORICAL PAINTINGS

What if you have a historical painting (think 19th century or previously) that looks a little yellowed or dingy? Aside from a general light dusting with a soft, microfiber cloth, I do not recommend tackling cleaning historical paintings by yourself. Historical paintings tend to be delicate and require professional treatment, particularly if they have a varnish overcoat that may have yellowed over time.

When in doubt, don't hesitate to contact a professional art cleaner or restorer in your area!
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