

# Plaster Gauze Technique

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## Technique Description:

This technique demonstrates how to use and add plaster gauze to your mixed media work. By simply cutting the gauze, dunking it in water, and applying it to your project, you can create unique texture to your work.

## Materials Needed:

- Plaster gauze
- Scissors
- Cup of water
- Paper Towels

## Instructions:

- 1.) Begin by cutting the plaster gauze to the size you need. While the gauze cuts easy, it can get a bit messy! So, be prepared for plaster bits and dust to get all over your workspace.
- 2.) With your gauze cut to size, simply dunk it into a cup of water for three seconds. When you pull the plaster out of the water, you'll hear a slight crackle noise – which means the plaster has been activated. Remove some of the excess water from the gauze by gently squeezing it between your index and middle finger. A helpful tip – try to stick with smaller sized pieces of gauze. If you try to dunk a large sized strip, it can very easily get tangled and be more difficult to apply.
- 3.) After removing excess water, apply the plaster to your project. Using your fingers, gently blend the plaster so that it becomes solid white (with no gauze holes remaining). This is a minor detail, but smoothing it out will be easier should you decide to add paint later on! Smoothing the plaster will also help it to adhere to the surface of your project (especially if you're applying it to paper). Should there be any excess water after application, you can use a paper towel to gently dab and absorb it.

4.) Allow your plaster to dry for a full 24 hours prior to painting. You'll know when your plaster is ready when it feels room temperature to the touch (it will feel cool during the drying process!). Once dry, you can paint, leave it as is, or layer paper onto your plaster area as desired for your mixed media project.

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