

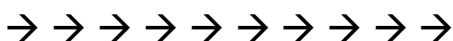
Harry Clarke Magical Cloak Scratch Art

In The Stained Glass Museum there is a remarkable window by the Irish Arts and Crafts artist Harry Clarke.

Colour glitters from within dark space. The people illustrated in his panels are draped in robes studded with coloured light, as if they have pulled a frosty night sky around their bodies for warmth.

Harry Clarke created these twinkling colours by using a process called Acid Etching. A thin sheet of coloured glass is layered upon clear glass to make a material known as Flashed Glass. Acid is then used to eat into the coloured layer, producing variations in tone and shade.

At home, we used Harry Clarke's window and technique as inspiration for our own art works, scratching magical cloaks for mysterious figures.



St Wilfred and St John Berchman., formerly in the Lady Chapel of the Convent of Notre Dame, Dowanhill, Glasgow (ELYGM:1998.2)

What you'll need



1. Cardboard, a finished cereal packet is perfect
2. Scissors
3. Wax crayons
4. Black paint and a brush - we found acrylic paint works best
5. Something with a point to scratch with - we used a compass, a sharp pencil and a kitchen skewer
6. OPTIONAL Shiny papers or foils - we used a mixture of kitchen foil, chocolate wrappers and the inside of crisp packets. If you use these materials you will also need a glue stick.

Making a panel



Your panel will provide the base for your picture. To make this, cut your cardboard to whatever size you would like your finished piece to be. We cut ours down to small rectangles of 12x16cm.

Creating a 'Flashed' layer

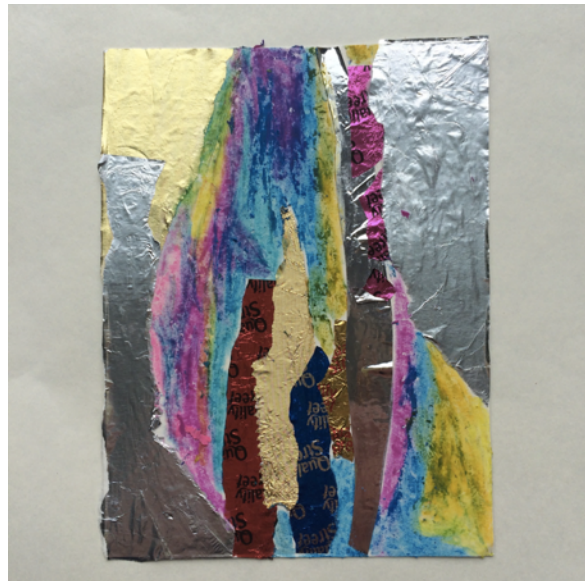


Next, you will need to create a coloured layer on top of your plain base, so your panel is layered in a similar way to Flashed Glass.

Using your waxed crayons and foils, collage the entire surface of your panel.

You don't need to make your collage look like anything in particular, just enjoy using your materials to make an interesting mix, thinking about layering, placing and overlapping colour and shape.

Here are some examples of our collaged 'flashed' panels:



As you can see we tried out different ways of creating the coloured layer

Painting over your panel

Once you are happy with your collage, you'll need to cover it entirely with black paint!

Acrylic paint gives a good coverage in one thin layer and dries quickly. If you are using poster paint, you may need to do a few thin layers. Wait for your panel to be completely dry.



'Etching' into your panel



Carefully take whatever sharp implement you are using and begin to draw into the painted surface of your panel. As you draw, you will see that you are scratching away the black paint to reveal your coloured layer underneath, a bit like how the process of acid etching bites into the surface of flashed glass. Depending on how deep you press you may even scratch through your coloured layer to the plain cardboard beneath. You'll find the paint scratches away in fine lines, but you might also like to flake away larger areas of black to reveal more intense colour.

Scratch panel finished!



A Harry Clarke inspired art work of beautiful bold colour within expanses of black. You can scratch anything you like into your panel, but we really enjoyed trying to emulate his nighttime characters clothed in magical cloaks.

