

### PAPER – CANVAS USING ACRYLICS

*Dear Eric*

*Do acrylics on paper behave differently than acrylics on a canvas board surface (such as Raymar)? A recent instructor mentioned that using acrylics as a wash, similar to watercolor, on a canvas board surface would tend to make them unstable. Would the adhesion be different on paper?*  
Gurukirn, Phoenix, AZ

Gurukirn,

As I have recently expanded my exploration of the acrylic medium,



**PENINSULA RODEO ROPING COWBOY**

I can share with you my unscientific knowledge of the medium, and how it behaves under certain conditions. First of all, in general, acrylic medium is very stable and archival. The paint intensity (color fastness) is permanent and the paint bonding durable under harsh treatment. I expect no cracking of the pigment, even after extensive display time under normal conditions. It is really quite a marvel of achievement in the artistic world.

For the most part, I find that acrylics behave differently on various surfaces due to the surface influence, not a change in the medium.

For example, if I paint on wood, the paint will leave a thicker impression as the paint absorbs in the individual fibers, and a slicker more transparent look upon a glass surface. Yes, both of these surfaces are acceptable for acrylic. So, for traditional canvas surfaces, the varieties available will provide a varying degree of visual and tactile texture. Watercolor paper is an excellent base for acrylic painting- it is made of cotton just like many oil canvas products.

I have not experimented with acrylic washes -thinned down so much that the painting strongly resembles a traditional watercolor painting- but those paintings I have seen can be very attractive. To my knowledge, it is an acceptable practice by many regardless of the surface chosen, and also one being used by my instructor at the Academy, who would never use anything less than archival.

Keep your brush wet!

Eric

