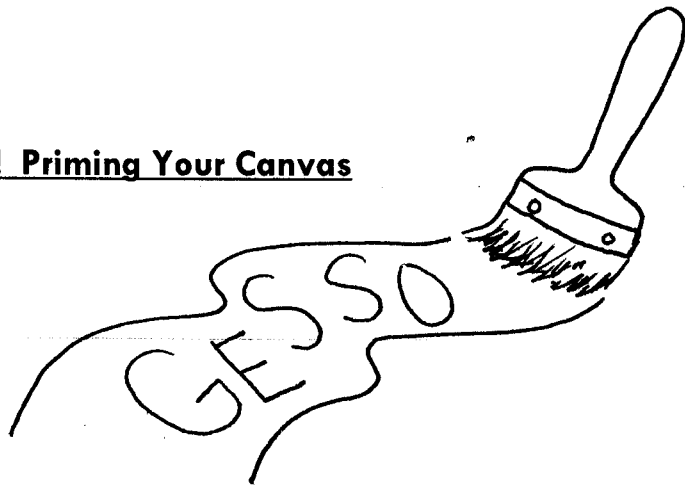


Gesso! Priming Your Canvas

You need:

- a stretched canvas
- gesso
- water
- a wide brush or paint roller
- a piece of sandpaper



It's important to prime your canvas because acrylic and particularly oil paints can bleed through unprimed canvas. Gesso is a pure white substance made with gypsum and binding agents, and acts as a seal on the canvas. You can get it in any art supply store.

Start by getting your gesso and brush or roller ready. If you are using Golden brand gesso, you can water it down slightly to make it easier to spread, but be careful with other brands and read the label: there are some that you can't add water to.

It's your choice what to use to apply the gesso. A roller will give you a smoother texture, but you might be interested in creating more texture with different brushes.

You'll need to put about four coats of gesso on your canvas. After applying an even coat all over the canvas, allow gesso to dry completely. Make sure layer is totally dry! A good way to check is to feel with your hand – if it's still cool to the touch, you need to let it dry some more. Once the layer dries, sand the canvas lightly with a piece of sandpaper. Run a slightly damp cloth over the sanded surface, and apply another layer.

If you would rather the off-white color of the canvas show through, you can use an acrylic medium to prime your canvas. Some companies offer "clear" gesso, but it's more translucent than totally-transparent drying medium. If you are painting in oil, use GAC 100, 2-3 coats. If you are using acrylic paint, you can use matte medium.

There are lots of other kinds of "grounds" for canvases. Golden brand in particular has quite a few options. Check their website if you're interested in other options. Lots of options are available at the UC Bookstore and art supply stores.

get painting!

