GRID ART

Prompt cards

Twenty-five small invitations, for the days when you want to make something but have no idea where to begin.

Every prompt is yours to place. You decide where it goes and how big it gets. Unless the card says otherwise.

HOW TO USE THEM

Cut out the cards, fold them in half, and put them in a bowl. Draw one, do what it says, then draw the next. Stop when it feels right. You don't have to use them all. I rarely do.

They work well with a grid, but they don't need one. You can use them on a single sheet, in your sketchbook, or just as a way to start a painting and take over with your own ideas once you're moving again.

MAKE IT YOURS

None of these cards ask for a specific material, on purpose, so you can play along with whatever is already on your table. The last page is a sheet of blank cards. Add your own: the materials you love, a technique you want to practise, a rule that makes you curious. That's how you end up with a set that fits you.

01

Paint a circle.

02

Make the same mark in all four sections.

03

Make one mark big enough to show up in all four sections.

04

Make a mark, then cover half of it.

05

Draw a straight line.

06

Let a mark run off the edge.

07

Pick a color and add its opposite from the color wheel.

08

Add a color you'd normally avoid.

09

One color, three values.

10

Put a light color on top of a dark one.

11

Let two colors touch while they're still wet.

12

Use the same mark in only two sections.

13

Add your darkest mark so far.

14

Add something barely visible.

15

Make the same shape twice: once big, once tiny.

16

Make something very small in the emptiest spot.

17

Make a mark without a brush.

18

Press something into the paint and lift it off.

19

Scratch into a mark while it's still wet.

20

Skip one section this round.

21

Make a mark with something from your kitchen.

22

Make a mark with something that has a texture or pattern of its own.

23

Add a line that runs through two sections.

24

Make a pattern.

25

Make a mark you can't fully control.

YOUR OWN PROMPTS