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# Abstract Painting: The Elements Of Visual Language



## Synopsis

**Abstract Painting: The Elements of Visual Language** examines and articulates a vocabulary of visual elements from which you build images, abstract or otherwise. As you examine line, shape, pattern, texture, depth, and color in detail, you become more aware of the elements that make up a painting, and better able to observe your own work without judgment and self-criticism. Generously illustrated with over 200 color images, this book will open your eyes to a whole new way of seeing your paintings as they develop, allowing you to be more personally expressive and authentic in your artistic expression.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jane Davies is a full time artist working in painting, collage, and encaustic. She offers workshops nationwide, focusing on developing a personal and playful approach to art making. After graduating Bennington College and attending the School for American Crafts, Davies began as a potter in the early nineties. She gradually transitioned into freelance art, using painting and collage as her medium. Since 2010 she has been teaching, writing, and making art. She did a residency at Vermont Studio Center in 2015. In addition to *The Elements of Visual Language*, Davies is the author of three books on collage and mixed media, one on ceramics, has one DVD on painting and collage techniques.

Nothing against acrylic technique books, but this is not another one. Instead, Davies provides the budding or more established artist with thought provoking principles, not rules, about why things might or might not work in a piece. I particularly appreciated the deep dive into how to think about

and see your art and that of others in a new and objective light. As with her generous videos and other books, this one is thoughtfully presented but never dogmatic. In fact, she challenges some accepted dogma with an eye towards helping the individual artist find their own voice. The artwork in it is beautiful and really helps clarify the concepts presented so that one can get them past the brain and actually utilize them in the studio. I hope it gets the wide readership it deserves.

Everything on the sellers end was fine but the actual book was not quite what I was looking for content wise.

I have taken two online classes from Jane Davies- both were terrific. Her book is no exception- Part how to book with clear directions and wonderful examples and part art education. Jane uses the art elements to give a common language for artist to talk about their work. This also helps artists to look at their own work in a new way or context. Just flipping through the pages makes me want to rush to my studio and get my paints out.

Exceeds my expectations! Accessible and challenging exercises, clear and thoughtful analysis, and lots and lots of food for thought on "what do I do next with my painting?". Beautiful illustrations, full of "I have to go try this right now!" ideas.

I cannot recommend this book because the type color--18% gray--makes it incredibly difficult to read. I know it was done on purpose because certain headlines are printed in black type but the majority of the book is unreadable. Very frustrating as I like the authors artwork but purchased this book to learn more about abstract design and the process she uses. The nearest workshop is 7 hours away from where I live so I thought buying the book would be valuable and really looked forward to reading it. I cannot understand sacrificing readability in this case where words matter, this is not just a book about the paintings themselves. If I can't find a way to read this without getting a headache, as happened in the first 30 minutes of trying, I will return it. Disappointing for me.

What a wonderful, down to earth book. Jane Davies is so generous with her knowledge and so willing to share it with those of us who want to be abstract painters. Thank you Jane Davies!

It's a beautiful, fun to read, full of useful advices and inspiring book. Very often we are unable to describe the work of art ( own or someone else's) because we don't know the language to do it. The

lack of knowledge hinders our progress, ability to figure out what to do next and ability to analyze art. This book formulates this language and provides very practical advices on seeing the art. It's full of wonderful illustrations with thoughtful commentaries and exercises. Thank you, Jane.

I admire Jane Davies and her work. I was very excited to receive this book. The exercises look good, but I must agree with other reviewers. The quality of the book is poor. The paper is flimsy and the book is small. The text is a small font and very pale gray, making it extremely difficult to read. It's definitely overpriced at \$22.00. I might return it.

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