

GRAFFIZEN

OR HOW TO MAKE
TO CAST THE TANGLES



*Zentangle® Inspired Art

A ZIA* TECHNIQUE BY MÉLANIE MARTY, CZT36

Created in 2022, the graffizen is a technique, inspired by the world of street art, tag and graffiti, which consists in making "cast" the tangles.

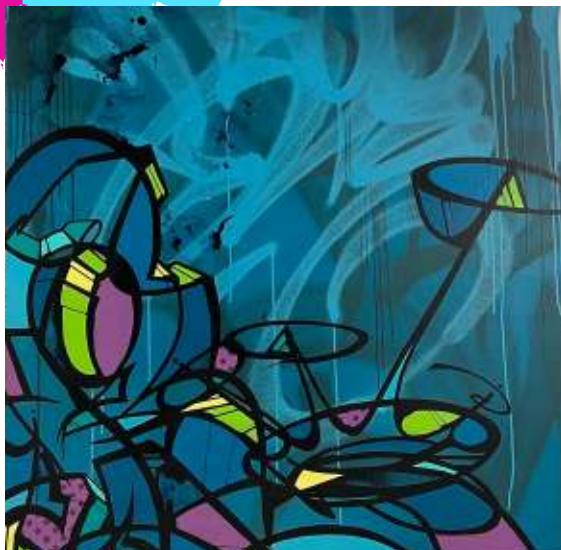
THE ART AND THE CASTING

The casting is very fashionable today in our decorative objects, there is only to see these figurines that we find a little everywhere :



The very flashy colors of the paint transform these rather banal statues into a very contemporary object. In fact, if you look closely, dripping has always been a recurring motif in art and painting.

In the 20th century, some artists even made it their trademark like Jackson Pollock, father of dripping (unlike other artists working on easels, he put his canvases on the ground and then used industrial paint that he squirted, poured or threw).



In the world of street art, tags and graffiti, the drip is as much the nightmare of the beginner graffiti artist as the Holy Grail of the most experienced. One might think it's a flaw, an imperfection or even an accident, but mastering it can become a real asset.

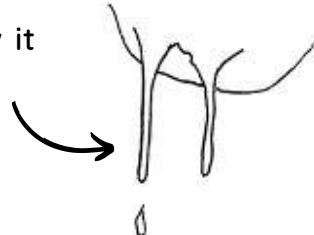


It is this analogy that I like about graffizen. The drip, stain or splash that could be considered a mistake becomes a deliberate act and dripping a tangle allows one to imagine it from another perspective. The features of the pattern transform to blend, the drip marks are instinctive and you have to imagine how to change the pattern to make it look the way you want it to... It really forces you to let go of perfection, because that's not what you're looking for at all when you practice the method.

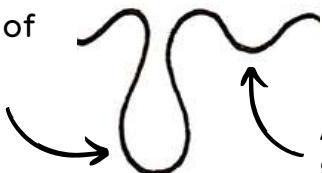
ANATOMY OF DRIPS

Depending on how you want them to look, you won't draw them the same way. It all depends on how viscous you want them to be.

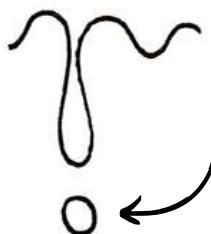
For a very liquid drip, you will draw it rather long and thin.



If it is more viscous, you will draw it shorter, wider and rounded at the bottom (imagine the shape of a balloon filled with water).



And if it's really thick and syrupy, then you'll just draw a bump !

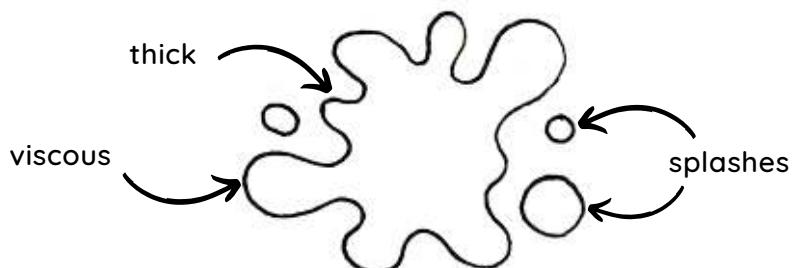


If you add splashes, draw them as wide as the base of your drip.

The secret to this technique is to alternate the shape and size of the drips so that the whole is harmonious and coherent. You will also always draw them from the top down : thanks to gravity, something that flows always does so by going down from the support it is on !

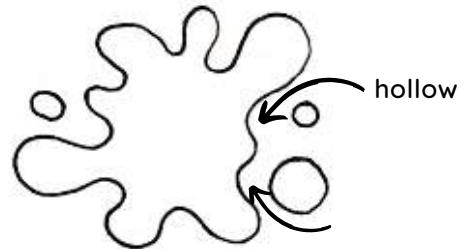


For the stains, it's a little different. You have to imagine that you are throwing paint on a wall. The splashes and drips will go in all directions. To draw a stain, use the same principle as before, alternating thicker and thinner drips.



In these spots, which you can see as reticles, you will be able to draw textured patterns, grid patterns or contrasting patterns, which allow to fill in backgrounds or even fragments.

My little tip for drawing the splashes of the stains :
draw your circles in the hollow between the thick drips, rather close to your stain. The idea is to add only 2 or 3 more so as not to overload the whole thing.

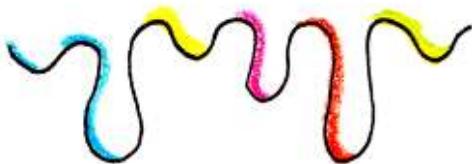


THE COLORING

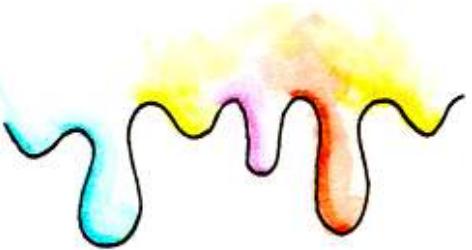
The graffizen is a technique inspired by the Zentangle® and the coloring is a key step. This is what will give the street art, graffiti look to your tangles.

My advice : use several flashy colors on the same pattern and let the colors infuse each other! You will spread the color instinctively, without thinking about the result, because it doesn't have to be perfect, quite the contrary !

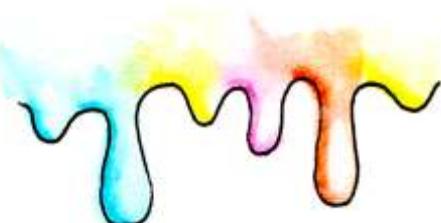
I show you how to do it with watercolor pencil (it's the same procedure for the stains) :



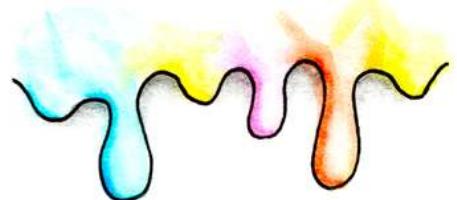
Step 1 : Once your drips are drawn on your tangle, draw a line of color on one side of each drip (here on the left), bringing it up slightly on top. Change colors between each drip.



Step 2 : With your brush, spread the colors as you would your zengems, making sure to leave a lighter area to give relief. Draw the color on top of the drops without coloring the entire tangle or stain.



Step 3 : If your drips are not too thin, add a little white pencil in your drips (here on the right side) to bring light and shine.



Step 4 : Draw the shadows with a gray pencil by drawing a line in each of the hollows in the runner. Shade the rest of your tangle as you normally would.

For the stains, it's the same process : a line of color on the side of the drops and shading in the outer hollows. This time, draw the color inside the stain.

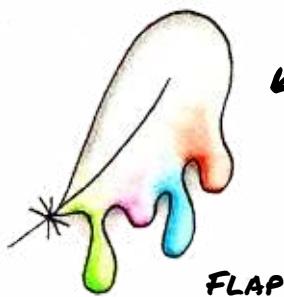


I show you how in a video here (at 9'10):



PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Now that you've learned all you need to know about graffiti, its shape, coloring and shading, let's get down to business. The graffizen is an affordable technique, which is really adaptable to all tangles ! Here are some examples :



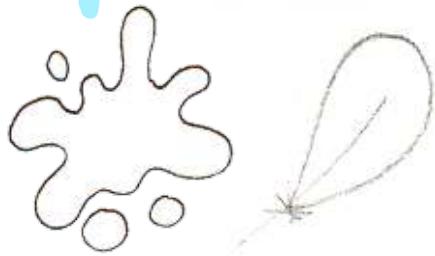
en vidéo [ici](#):



As you can see, we can have a lot of fun, and when you feel like color, it's just perfect !

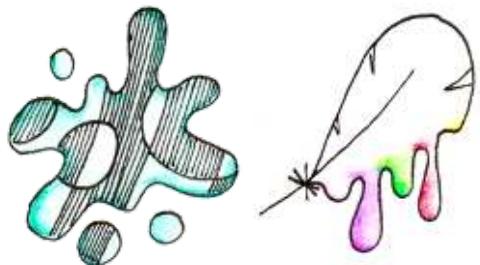
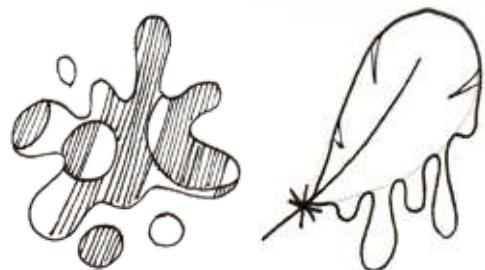
In the next page, I offer you a step by step image to put into practice everything you have learned in this pdf.

STEP BY STEP



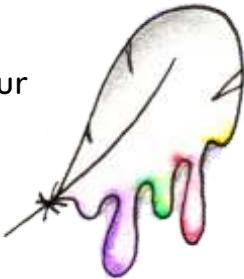
Step 1 : Draw your tangle with a pencil (or if you are more comfortable, only the parts that will run) or draw a spot with a pen.

Step 2 : With a pen, iron the parts that will not be graffited and add the drips following the construction lines of the tangle.
If you made a stain, draw the tangle inside.



Step 3 : Erasing the pencil lines and adding the color (as seen before).

Step 4 : Shade your drips as well as your design as you normally would.



I hope you'll have as much fun as I did with graffizen! If you want to go further and you feel the need to be accompanied in the discovery of this technique, I suggest you to follow me on [my online course platform](#) to realize a work in A4 format. You will discover the 31 tangles of inktober 2022 modified with graffizen. This course is totally free.

And don't forget to share your creations with the hashtags #graffizen #graffizentangle

See you soon !