



The following excerpt is from *Decorative Paint & Faux Finishes*, published by Sunset Books. Diane collaborated with painter Justina Jorin Barnard on this bestselling book.

Walls are the blank canvas of our homes, an open invitation to embellishment. With the addition of color and pattern, walls assume character and set the tone for our décor—light, bright, subdued, lively, imposing, subtle, or exuberant, as we

wish. With the imaginative use of paint, anyone can transform a plain expanse of wallboard into a decorative backdrop, choosing options that range from demure and barely perceptible washes of color to bold figurative or geometric patterns.

If you are a novice painter and feel somewhat insecure, relax. While imagination and artistic talent are wonderful assets for anyone wanting to do decorative painting, they are not prerequisites. Having the proper materials and tools and taking the time to plan and practice your chosen technique are far more important. Even some of the seemingly complex faux finishes can be very successfully painted by beginners, though others do require more skill and familiarity with art supplies. Most of the painting effects can be interpreted in many ways, one being no more “right” than another, especially if you like the way it looks. The biggest mistake you are likely to make is to underestimate the amount of time needed to paint an entire room. So think through your project, test and practice to be sure you understand the technique and like the way the colors work together, and then have fun.