



Below is a list of the supplies that I will be using for the projects in this course. However, you are always encouraged to use what you have on hand.

## **Basic Art Supplies**

### **Substrates**

Rice Paper comes in hundreds of different varieties and sizes and kinds. For what we are doing I've narrowed it down to four types of paper I think you will have the most success with. You will want to get at least one large sheet of paper. (Or enough to make 4-6 11 x 14 paintings.) Any of the following kinds will work.

- Masa- This is a student grade paper traditionally used for printmaking or calligraphy. Beautiful, sturdy and has some more sizing than some of the other papers so it's easy to use. It is the most inexpensive paper.
- Mulberry – Mulberry paper is kind of a catchall term for rice paper. It comes in many, many weights and both natural or white and even colors. I like to use one that is about 45gsm. White or Natural. It should not crack or break when you bend it gently. It needs to be thin enough to tolerate the process of what we are doing but not so thin that it looks like tissue paper.
- Kinwashi or Ginwashi - This is a sturdy, strong, but flexible paper. It has lots of beautiful fibers and texture in it. It is the most expensive paper I've recommended.

Rice paper comes in all weights. For our purposes we want to try to find something between 25- 45 gsm. (Grams per square meter) Do not buy "tissue weight" paper as it will be too fine for what we want.

## **Basic Watercolor Supplies**

### **Paints**

- Watercolor Paints

If you are buying new watercolors, buying a small set of paints is a good way to go as you will get colors that mix well. Quantity is not important, Quality is better. If you have a set of professional grade watercolors it's fine to use that. You would only need to buy one tube of black paint and have some container for that in addition to whatever you are using for a palette.

\*\*\* Brands I love and use include but are not limited to: QOR- by Golden, Windsor and Newton- (not the Cotman line), Daniel Smith, Holbien, M.Graham. I also like the lower priced Van Gogh line of tube paint. American Journey brand from Cheap Joes Online works well too.

- Basic Colors you will need are:
  - Yellow
  - Red
  - Blue
  - Brown (Burnt Sienna or Quinacrodone Burnt Orange)
  - A small tube of Mars or Lunar Black paint

If I could only buy 6 tubes of paint it would be cadmium yellow, cadmium red, ultramarine blue, Prussian blue, a violet like dioxazine purple, and a dark brown like quinacridone burnt orange or burnt sienna. Other colors I love on my palette are sap green or green gold, and a raw sienna or yellow ochre color, and phthalo turquoise .

For the final steps of the painting you will want a tube of black watercolor paint. Mars Black or Lunar Black are both good choices in most any maker. If you have black on your palette I recommend buying a tube separately as this is used in the final step of the process and putting it into a separate dish is helpful to avoid getting wax into your regular palette. This gets MESSY!

Watercolor Pencils, or other Water-soluble tools are nice to have but optional. Inktense, Derwent and Lyra make some really great pencils.

## **Paintbrushes**

- Soft Watercolor Brushes

For the watercolor portion of the process you will want a basic set of watercolor brushes. Nothing fancy is needed. I like the Princeton Set of Basic Taklon brushes. Three or four brushes is all you need. I use a 1 inch flat and a smaller ½ inch flat brush almost exclusively. If you prefer to paint with rounds – that is fine too. You won't need more than just one or two smaller detail brushes in the watercolor step because as you

will see painting detail on rice paper is ... not really a thing. Look for soft absorbent fibers. Synthetics are nice both for ethical reasons and they tend to be more durable. Coarse brushes like hog will tear your paper. If you have acrylic brushes those should work—just pick out your softer ones.

\*\*Please if you have expensive sable or other watercolor brushes put them away for this! The rough paper will tear them up or worse yet dipping them \ in hot wax would ruin them.

- One Paddle Brush, or Big Hake or “Chip” Brush - About 2 ½ inches wide

\*This is for applying the black paint to the painting. Don't spend much we are not being nice to this brush.

- Water container

\*for safety reasons please don't reuse a paint cup for food

You will need one. Old recycled glass jar, old mason jar, Old yogurt tubs or cottage cheese containers are good too.

### **Other**

- Palette - You can use what is included in your set or an old plastic lid or pie pan. Or you can buy a nice palette. There are thousands to choose from.

## **Tools for the Wax Process**

For the wax part of the process, you will need the wax, a way to melt it, and some tools to apply it to the paper.

### **Wax**

You should need no more than one pound of wax total. Batik wax or Gulf Wax is fine.

- **Batik Wax** is a specialty blend of paraffin and beeswax. It comes prepackaged in a tin container ready to heat and use. Batik wax works very well and I think most people will like it for what we are doing. It runs less than straight paraffin when it's hot. You can mix your own with roughly three parts paraffin to one part beeswax. Or you can buy the premixed batik wax.

- **Gulf Wax** Gulf brand paraffin wax is what I normally use. It's a canning wax used for all kinds of things and it's available in most grocery stores and Wal Mart or Ace Hardware with the canning jars. You want food quality canning paraffin not candle wax. (Candle wax may have additives or scents and isn't quite as good for what we are doing.)

## **A Way to Melt the Wax**

You will need some way to melt your wax. Pick One! Options include:

- [Tiny crockpot](#)

I use a small crockpot with no heat controls. It's the kind that's used for appetizers without a temperature control. This is my favorite way of heating wax. It keeps the temperature at a regular low temp without needing any babysitting. Thrift Stores can be a great place to find these. Walmart, Target and most places carry them and you can buy them new or use one you already have. \*\*\*\* warning: once you use it for wax you likely won't be able to use it again for food.

- Electric skillet

You can use an old one, buy a dedicated one or get a thrifted one. Big or little it will work. If you get a big one you will want some sort of metal container or pan to use to heat the wax and they make encaustic pans for that. Or you can use an old tin can or other metal container. You can line a regular electric skillet with aluminum foil to protect it from the wax and could potentially use it again for food provided no wax gets on the cooking surface. You want to make sure it has a temperature control dial to keep the temp around 200 degrees. Anything hotter is too hot and then the wax can become flammable.

- Encaustic Heated Palette

The third and most expensive option is an encaustic heated pallet and pans. If you are interested in doing encaustic it might be a good investment – or if you already have one... by all means use it.

## **Wax Tools and Brushes**

- Brushes for Wax

You will need a few brushes to use with the wax. Again- please nothing fancy but keep in mind – once they are used for wax that is all you will use them for. Fiber content of the brushes is important because many synthetics will melt and fray the bristles in the heat of the wax. Look for:

- Nylon
- Golden Taklon
- White Taklon
- Goat Hair\*
- Boar Bristle\*

\*\* Natural fibers may be more expensive. I prefer short handles because I like to have the control over tools that will be used with a hot medium and the handles are less likely catch on sleeves etc as I'm working or tip out of my crockpot.

\*Brushes with “synthetic fibers” may melt and fray in the wax making them hard to use.

Sizes you will need

- Rigger brush
- A small round for details
- Flat or round brushes – nothing bigger than a 2 inch flat.
- One large 2 ½ inch or 3 inch wide flat hake or chip brush

\*\* Keep in mind these brushes will be dipped in hot wax and be wax only brushes after this.

- [Thermometer for Wax](#)

An optional item you may want to have – any regular cooking thermometer would work. You want the wax to be around 170 degrees to 200 degrees ideally.

## **Extra Items From Home You Will Want**

- Paper Towels
- A stack of old newspapers or newsprint paper
  - About 3 or 4 inch tall stack of paper- remove any glossy inserts
- An old Iron (thrifted or cheap)
- Freezer Paper or Wax Paper
  - Found in the paper products sections of Wal-Mart and Grocery Stores with the aluminum foil and saran wrap. \*\*Freezer Paper is preferred.

- An Old Knife to cut the Gulf Wax if that is what you are using and board or surface to cut the wax on.
- A Smooth Board Cut into 12x14 inches
  - A piece of chipboard, foam core, smooth cardboard or matboard about 3 or 4 inches bigger than your painting size. Cut to size. Approx 12 x14 inches.
- Blue Painters Tape and Masking Tape
- Ruler and Scissors to Cut Paper
- An Apron or Painting Clothes
- A way to protect your work table
- [Nitrile or Latex Disposable Gloves](#)
  - Optional but it gets messy!
- Spray Bottle for plain water