

Printing on Clay – Lithography Printing

Description of workshop

This workshop is a hands-on one-day practical day on transferring images onto clay using a lithography transfer printing technique



Materials List

(This is a kit, that can be stored for reuse whenever you want to have a day printing, either a club kit or your own individual kit, materials/tools shared)

1. Images on paper. Must be the result of a photocopy, not bubble jet (home) printer. It is the properties of the photocopy ink which is essential for the process to work. Hand line drawing, strong black and white contrast photos will work the best.
2. If you are using words, they need to be reversed in the computer, then printed then photocopied.
3. Two containers to hold water for washing and soaking images. (I use kitty litter trays)
4. Raw Linseed oil, available from MITRE ten or paint shops. (Golden thick, not refined)
5. Ceramic powdered stains and/or oxides – Mason onyx black stain works the best. Other coloured stains can be used and oxides (e.g., red iron oxide for sepia tones)
6. Standard Borax frit. Ferro Frit 4108 100 – 200 gm.
7. A small sheet of glass or ceramic tile for missing the ink on. Not too big
8. Old paint brush or palette knife for mixing ink.
9. One small dropper bottle.
10. Turps and dishwashing liquid for clean-up.
11. Rags and/or roll of paper towels.
12. Disposable plastic gloves.
13. A few small sponges
14. Sponge rollers, available from art supplies, (can use a fine sponge covered with a small piece of muslin.
15. A soft printmakers roller (or brayer) – optional available from art supplies
16. A few squares of recycled vinyl or lino.
17. Paper scissors
18. Lots of newspaper as this is a messy business and rubbish bag.

Pre – workshop

1. **Prepare your clay slabs (or vessels plates or cylinders) ahead of time**
The clay needs to leather hard but not dry and have a smooth surface for best possible registration of prints. I find white clay gives best results.
2. **Coloured slips** can be applied to the surface of the leather-hard slabs/vessels to give a background colour.
3. **Have your photocopied images ready and cut to size.**

