



# Smithsonian Associates

## **Woodblock Printmaking**

**Instructor: Max-Karl Winkler**

If you have questions about any of the materials, contact Max-Karl Winkler: telephone 301-949-8612; e-mail [maxkarlwinkler@verizon.net](mailto:maxkarlwinkler@verizon.net)

### *For Reading*

There is no text assigned for this course; however, if you are the sort of person who learns readily from reading, here are two informative books. There are many others on the market, but I am not familiar with them. Keep in mind that both of these books are readily available in the used-book market.

George A Walker, *The Woodcut Artist's Handbook: Techniques and Tools of Relief Printmaking*, Firefly Books, \$29.95

Merlyn Chesterton, *Making Woodblock Prints*, Crowood Press, \$14.39

### *For Drawing and Designing*

Woodblock sanded on both sides, or 2 linoleum blocks, 5 x 7 inches or larger

Sketchbook, tracing paper, or other paper

Pencil and/or pen

Colored pencil or marker

Your woodblock should be hardwood, preferably walnut or cherry. (Maple is a fine wood, but very hard. Birch is acceptable, though not as fine as others.) The best source of wood is a local lumberyard that sells hardwoods; they are very cooperative about allowing you to select the wood (and, for a small charge, they will cut it to your request). If for some reason you lack the hand strength to carve a block of wood, you should purchase two linoleum blocks of the same size. These blocks should be of tan linoleum (not grey), mounted on a presswood block. You should create, or find somewhere, the design you wish to turn into a block print. In the first class meeting, the instructor will discuss design and drawing considerations. If you are already comfortable with drawing and designing, you might wish to use other materials than the pencil, pen, and paper listed here. If you want to find ideas, search on-line for woodcut prints or linocut prints, or visit a website like Etsy.com. Your own design, of course, will be sized to fit your block.

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### *For Transferring*

- Transfer paper or carbon paper
- Masking tape
- Xylene pen
- Fixative or inexpensive hairspray
- Fine-line permanent marker (Sharpie or other brand)

### *For Carving*

- Woodblock
- Bench hook (or rubberized shelf liner, about the size of your block)
- Gouges, chisels, veiners, knives

Buy the best carving tools you can afford; you won't regret it. There are many fine brands: Flexcut, Lyons, Ramelson, T N Lawrence, and others. If you are not familiar with woodcut tools, Flexcut gouges (1 mm and ¼ inch) are recommended. The Flexcut website lists these as *FR 800 #9 x 1mm* and *FR 323 #3 x ¼" (6mm)*. You will also need an X-acto (or similar) knife with No 11 blade.

### *For Repairing*

- Carpenter's wood glue
- Fine sawdust
- Emery board or sandpaper
- Wood filler (optional)

### *For Printing*

- Bristle brush, such as fingernail brush or mushroom brush
- Brayer with soft rubber roller
- Inking plate (acrylic or glass, 12 x 12 inches or larger)
- Relief printing inks, oil based, in desired colors
- Spatula or palette knife
- Wooden spoon or baren
- Printing paper (archival, acid free, and pH neutral)

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Printing frame or chase

2 Push pins

Masking tape

Apron, smock, or overshirt (optional)

*For Cleanup*

Paper towels

Baby oil

Rubbing alcohol

Vinyl or rubber gloves (optional)