



Smithsonian Associates

INTRODUCTION TO WHITE-LINE WOODBLOCK PRINTING

with Sue Fierston

Hi everyone!

Please come to class with a simple line drawing or traced image that measures 6 x 8 inches. Over the three-hour class I'll show you how to set up your space for printing and how to prepare your woodblock. Then I'll demonstrate the printing process and set you free to make your first white-line woodcut. Along the way, I can help you troubleshoot your prints, choose papers, and keep those white lines, ones that will snap your prints into focus. sue.fierston@gmail.com

MATERIALS

Supplies are available at Dickblick.com unless noted:

1. 1 block 1/4 inch shina plywood, McClains, 8 x 10 inch <https://imcclains.com/> McClains is a west-coast printing supplier with an excellent selection and price. They may be slower to ship, so check with the website and order as soon as you can.

Carving on regular plywood is very hard on your hand, though the Provincetown Printers of the 1930s carved their designs on the backs of old kitchen cabinets!

2. Two choices for wood-cut knives, choose one.

3mm U-gouge Futatsu Moku Hanga To woodcut knife. Fits beautifully in the hand, cuts like a dream, but expensive. <https://imcclains.com/>

OR

x acto knife with curved #10 blade or regular #1 blade

Avoid the Niji sets you see on Amazon, their blades are too wide for our purposes. Linoleum knives are not sharp enough. **Flexicut Palm tools will also work well, if you already have them.**

The exacto knife is less expensive (\$5) than the Japanese knife (\$18), but is more difficult to use.

3. 1 watercolor round paintbrush size 6 or 8

4. 1 22 x 30 inch sheet Arnhem 1618 printing paper, 90 lb. You can fold or cut this sheet down into 8 sheets measuring 11 x 7.5 inches. The paper type is important because not all printmaking paper is sized to accept the wetness of watercolor, which is our printing medium.

OR 1 - 50 sheet pack Richeson printing paper, 88 lb., 9 x 12 inches

5. Your own watercolor paints OR **Yarka student 12 color watercolor palette**

6. 1 sheet 8 x 10 inch tracing paper

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- 7. 1 sheet 8.5 x 11 inch transfer or carbon paper**
- 8. 3 metal thumb tacks or aluminum push pins**
- 9. 1 white Uni-ball Signo UM153 gel pen OR White out**

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES

1. Watercolor pencils or crayons, especially those that match your watercolors
2. Clothespin, to use as a handle for lifting your paper
3. Shelf liner, anchors your woodblock as you carve, 1 - 9 x 12 inch piece

YOU LIKELY HAVE AT HOME

1. A wooden spoon, it won't be damaged and you can still use it for cooking
2. Pencil
3. Paper towels
4. Water container