

Japanese Water-based Woodblock Printing with Yuji Hiratsuka

Mokuhanga, the traditional Japanese method of woodblock printing, is an elegant, non-toxic, and low-tech process that works easily in a home studio and combines well with other printmaking methods. With its water-based pigments mixed with nori rice paste, which are applied with unique brushes and printed by hand, Mokuhanga allows for soft and painterly relief prints. This workshop will introduce all aspects of the process: transferring images to wooden blocks, carving with Japanese tools, using the Kento registration system, and printing with traditional tools onto a Washi paper. We will also focus on a few of the printing techniques particular to the Japanese method, especially how to create a bokashi (color gradation) as well as viewing original Ukiyo-e prints.

Price includes a materials fee which covers all basic supplies. Students need to provide their own carving tools (see list below). Students may bring supplemental materials to class.

Fee covers:

- Shina Plywood (10" x 8", 3 pieces)
- Japanese Kozo (mulberry) paper
- Sumi Inks & watercolors
- Tracing paper
- Newsprint
- Use of studio tools in class: Baren, Hanga bake (printing brushes), X-acto knives, rulers, spray bottle, rags, non-skit mats, plastic bags
- Nori paste

Students should bring:

- Carving tools – one u gouge (3mm Sankaku To), one v gouge (3mm Sankaku To)
- Drawing materials
- Sketchbook
- Small plastic cups with lids (yogurt cups work well)

Optional items:

- Additional watercolors
- Additional Kozo papers, other print papers
- Personal baren
- Personal Spray bottle

If you are not familiar with these tools and materials please visit:

<https://www.imcclains.com/>. They have a great selection of carving tools. Other art supply companies also have woodblock tools as well, but you may want to avoid the cheapest sets, as they are often not sharp enough to carve wood and are not easily sharpened.

We will go over the materials list in the first day.