

Redlines Studio Encaustic Workshop Outline

All Encaustic Workshops Meet on One Saturday, 10AM-4PM

This workshop will cover many aspects of encaustic painting, such that each participant feels prepared to buy the necessary items and begin working on their own. Since six hours (with a one hour break) is barely enough time to learn the basics AND create a small composition, I will offer an advanced workshop to explore more concepts and techniques.

This workshop will be a mix of lecture, demonstration, cooperative exploration, and assisted practice. Each student will have sufficient time to create a small encaustic painting during the second part of the workshop, just after lunch. Time permitting we will also have time to create our own paints with both pigments and oil paints. There is substantial technical information to cover, so expect a good dose of lecture!! It will all pay off later.

Class Outline

10-10:30 Encaustic Overview: What is Encaustic Painting? LECTURE

This section is mostly lecture. I will touch briefly on topics that will be raised later. If you feel like it goes too fast, not to worry, it will come up again during the demonstrations and the guided practice periods.

HISTORY:

Origins:

Painted Ships (800 BCE)

Roman Fayum Portraits (A.D. 50-100)

Contemporary Work

Rivera and others in the 20's

Jasper Johns' America Flag 1960s

Current artists, including a look at my work

QUICK OVERVIEW OF TECHNIQUES

MATERIALS

What is Wax Medium?

What is Encaustic Paint? (more on making both later in the day)

What tools and materials are used?

What surface can I create on?

Are there incompatible materials?

PROPERTIES

What makes an encaustic painting so beautiful and unique?

How can *inclusions* be used for collage encaustic work?

How do I get the translucent effect?

10:45-11:00 Cooperative Exploration of Materials and Artwork

Examine books, artwork, materials, and tools to generate several written questions.

11:00-12:00 Encaustic Painting DEMONSTRATION

During this portion I will demonstrate the entire process of painting with encaustic. I will annotate my techniques and skills, but be sure to ask me to pause when you have a question. I want students to be active learners. Your understanding relies on your willingness to wonder, question, and explore!

While observing consider:

SAFETY Consider and ask about any safety concerns you have.

HEAT optimum 165-220 degrees (beeswax melts at 150 degrees- 160 with damar)

SUBSTRATE AND GROUND What am I painting on, how am I starting?

MATERIALS Do you see materials I am using but don't know what they are?

12:00-1:00 LUNCH BREAK

1:00- 3:00 GUIDED PRACTICE

During this portion, each student will work simultaneously to begin a small encaustic painting. We will go very slowly at first, starting and stopping frequently so I can discuss each step we explore. Please be willing to let go of your learned techniques during this first painting. The composition you begin is a distant second in importance to the experimentation you try. All your unique skills and artistic vision will come to inform your work soon enough!

3:00- 3:45 INDIVIDUAL EXPLORATION

We will continue working on our paintings, albeit with more independence so the creative impulse has room to envelope your work. Though it will be an effort, my interest is in hanging back, observing, and allowing students to ask the questions. Encaustic painting involves many skills and techniques which can seem daunting at first, but like all forms of art, it is the discoveries you make through your exploration, "mistakes" and experimentation that will lead you to your greatest successes.

3:45-4:00 CLEAN UP