

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Ecaustics

Instructor: Julie Belcher

Dates: July 20-25, 2025

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Come to the mountains for a compelling and esoteric experience learning encaustic painting and building a body of work. Students will learn beginner to advanced techniques with melted beeswax as the medium for layering translucent and opaque color and imagery. Safely experiment with tools and methods to construct a painting on rigid surfaces, embellish with drawings and learn to fuse with a torch, iron, and heat gun. Students in this workshop will print from a metal hot plate to make monotypes on paper and use some of these designs to collage and embed into paintings for mixed media fun. Pull out your dusty art supplies and get tips on how to use watercolor, oil paint, and colored pencils in your compositions. No other creative medium is as adaptable and versatile as encaustic. All skill levels are welcome.

WHAT TO BRING

- 2 pounds of ENCAUSTIC MEDIUM, white filtered beeswax with damar resin (this comes in flakes, pearls or bricks, all are good, important: make sure its encaustic medium and not just beeswax)
These are NOT COMPATIBLE: crayons, candle wax, cold wax, scented wax, soy or microcrystalline wax (soy wax is only used for cleaning brushes)
- 3-4 bricks of different colors of 40ml Encaustic PAINT
- Encaustic paints are primarily made by R&F Paint (bricks) and/or Enkaustikos (wax snaps or hot sticks) These are concentrated pigments in wax – we will mix colors and thin with Encaustic Medium. These can be all neutrals sepia/black/brown or primaries red/yellow/blue, whatever your color palette. Also there are sets available from R&F at a discount , Arrowmont store has a small selection and instructor will bring many colors to purchase during the week if needed.
- 1 White or cream Encaustic PAINT 40ml
- 2" metal putty knife/paint scraper looks like this, stiff blade is best
<https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Basics-Nylon-Handle-Putty/dp/B08D9QK5VL>
- Chip and Hake BRUSHES *natural bristle brushes with wooden handles only – No synthetic bristles or plastic handles. Get online or box store, cheap ones work fine, short handles are best
- 1/2" size bring 5-7 brushes
- 2" or 3" size bring 1 or 2 – it would be good to for 1 of these to be a Hake style brush with goat bristles for encaustic medium, I will also bring some of these for purchase.
- Small detail brush bring at least 2 – don't invest in an expensive sable brush here – cheap natural bristle craft brushes work great
- Any extra nice WOODEN PANELS you want to experiment on - no larger than 10x10", some plywood sample boards will be provided for practicing techniques, Smooth wooden substrates which can be

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anything from birch plywood to cradled art panels like Cheap Joes packs or Ampersand unprimed basswood or encausticbord can be used.

- If you prefer to paint on a white surface instead of a wooden surface you can also purchase ENCAUSTIC GESSO to coat wood with. This is optional and not necessary.
- Assorted PAPERS (some tissue papers will be provided with material fee) I encourage you to bring various absorbent, white or off white uncoated papers to experiment with like rice paper, mulberry, cotton, any of these will work well, thin papers are best but bring assorted weights to experiment with - some names I look for are: Yatsutomo, Masa, Gampi, Kitakata, Sumi, Rives BFK cotton papers, handmade. You can also bring colors or found papers, collage papers, maps, old book pages. Keep in mind if you coat dark papers with wax they will get darker – so light colors work best.
- TINS to melt wax paint in – these can be small aluminum baking tins, very clean cat or tuna cans- bring 5-6 of these, silicon cups can work too but aren't as safe as rigid metal cans.
- TOOLS – 2 kinds of tools:
 - 1. Soft Silicon tipped tools like catalyst wedges *Instructor will also bring a variety
 - 2. Rigid metal tools
- For scraping and drawing into wax:
 - Pottery tool, loop tool for scraping and a pin or needle tool for drawing.
 - They can look like this but any shape will do, you need 1 of each
<https://www.baileypottery.com/c-126-98.html>
<https://www.baileypottery.com/c-126-59-n.html>
- Bring other items that can make a mark in wax or scrape wax off a surface -flat razor blades and small holder, sewing pin wheel, nut cracker pick, pizza cutter, fork, corn holder – thrift store is good place to get creative with mark making tools. ***Cooking tools used must NOT return to the kitchen, keep in artist kit***
- Xacto knife, fresh blades, scissors, small self healing mat to cut on
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- Small OBJECTS to press into warm wax or ink that will leave an impression like lace, doilies, textured fabric or objects, bag that onions or oranges come in, stencils, jar lid, etc.
- Watercolors – a couple tubes or a pan kit and brush
- Water bottle or insulated cup to keep hydrated and an Apron or smock
- OPTIONAL :
 - If you are experienced with encaustic and prefer razor blades for scraping, bring some
 - Colored pencils
 - Pan pastels and applicators
 - Oil Sticks - R&F oil sticks work great with encaustic
 - Oil Paint
 - Sketchbook

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- Torch, I like Iwatani head with butane canister
- Flash drive (to protect and save data to and from Library computers)

Planning to purchase materials from the Supply Store for your workshop? Keep in mind that the Supply Store carries a limited selection and cannot guarantee that all materials listed by your instructor will be in stock. Please call **865-436-5860 Ext. 25** or email Celeste Rudd at **crudd@arrowmont.org** to reserve your selection prior to arrival.

MATERIALS FEES | **\$50.00-\$85.00**

Fees are assessed on an individual class basis and may vary from class to class depending on the amount of materials used and the number of students in the class, this keeps your out-of-pocket costs lower than a typical flat fee. Fees include all provided studio materials as assigned by the Instructor. Material fees are to be paid in the Supply Store no later than midday on the last day of workshop instruction.

Please be advised that the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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Instructor Contact
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