

ARROWMONT

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Medium: Encaustics

Instructor: Marge Luttrell

Dates: June 28- July 3, 2026

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop invites students—whether new to encaustic or experienced—to turn their experimentation into a cohesive body of work. Through demonstrations, discussion, and guided creative exercises, students will explore color, texture, transparency, and composition while building confidence and continuity in their encaustic practice. Techniques taught in this workshop will become building blocks, allowing students to create a thematic body of work. Students can expect to leave with a deeper understanding of both the medium and their own artistic voice.

WHAT TO BRING

- What you will need to bring: Encaustic Paints: *R&F and Encaustikos are the most available brands of encaustic paints. If you are just starting out make sure you bring a Titanium White block of either brand and a block of either black. This mixes with everything so it's imperative. The R&F ones cost around \$12.00. Do not buy the Encastikos brand that is already in the metal cup. When you are starting out it is way too easy to corrupt the white with other colors before you know it. If you already have some encaustic colors bring them. If not, don't worry. R&F has generously bequeathed a lovely grant for me to get colors with and I will cut them up so everyone has plenty for one week. I also make my own colors and have done so for years and I have a lot of extras I will bring up for you to use. So just get the white and black and R&F and I will supply the rest. This will save you all a ton of money. * Substrates: For the first few days we will be working on the small boards I provide. After that you will need to bring wood (birch) boards (not canvas) to work on. DaVinci birch boards, that I get at Jerry's Artarama online I think are the way to go. Please bring at least 6 and bring 3 that are the same size so that you can do a series. Everyone works at a different pace and if you are fast you might bring more and if you work slower the amount I have said, should work. Do not bring anything over 12 x 16 unless you are coming up here with extra product and extra wax. I am hopefully giving you a guideline of how much I think you will use in a week. * You will need natural hair paint brushes. You can not use synthetic as they will melt in the wax. They are also at Jerry's on line but honestly if your not opposed to Temu, they have great brushes for super cheap. You can get 15 for around 4 dollars. Lowe's has good ones too. I like to use the short handle brushes as they can stay in the cup and don't contaminate the other colors. Bring a selection and I will have some for your use * I would like to teach you how to use a torch. I know this can be a bit daunting but I think you will appreciate it. If you are totally scared of a torch- stick with a heat gun. I just think a torch is more versatile. The best place to get a torch is on Amazon. You can buy butane fuel there also. Also, Lowe's or Home Depot should have them too, but I have not

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checked there since I get mine online. A torch will cost you around 15 dollars and two cans of butane will cost about 10 dollars. There are a ton of brands. I have bought every brand in the book because they wear out after a while and they are all pretty similar. *Cans to melt wax in: You will need some metal cans, they can be rotated and remelted to use and keep your palette organized. Plus you need one for soy wax to clean your brushes. Amazon again, has some good ones or you can use tuna or cat food canisters. The thing about the cat food ones (fancy feast) they are shallow and won't hold your brush and the ones on amazon or Michaels are higher and will make it easy. I will also bring some and I have a ton of lids that will work well to mix on. * * An old shirt or apron so you don't mess up your clothes. * * Sketchbook to take notes, plus pens, pencils, glue, markers, erasers, scissor's, bone scorer, colored pencils, watercolors, punches, stamps, stencils, ruler, blue painters tape, a small self healing cutting mat (we have metal tables and they are hard to cut on) Look for things you already have on hand around the house, that will make things easier and interesting. * Old cut up t-shirt or an old pair of tights to polish with * Clay tools, If you want to buy them from Arrowmont bookstore they have plenty but Temu or Amazon can get you better prices. I know all this can add up fast. Look around your house-half of my tools are old pastry or sewing tools I have found. Bring a putty knife. You will need it for clean up and a pin tool to score with. * Collage materials: * This is open for interpretation but since this class zeros in on what you want to say with your work, please bring some things related to a subject you like. I find that Pinterest is still a good source but don't try to print them out. Most are blocked from use and your printer will just print a blank page. I take a picture with my iPhone then print it from there. Collage and appropriation are universally accepted and when it's in the public domain you are fine. I also use Epson Presentation Paper(Amazon or Office Depot) which works really well to bring out the colors. If you want work to transfer- you will need to print on a laser printer. (I will bring mine for everyone to use but it is just black and white). If you have ever seen my work or look at my website you will see that I love to use alternative materials. So sky is the limit. If you have a chance to get to a few estate sales (estatesales.org) I find they are great resources. If you want to use your relatives photos you definitely want to copy the pictures. I don't want to be responsible for you ruining a picture of your grandmother or Aunt Sally. Look for interesting papers.Sites like Paper Source, Michaels, taperology.com, cherryontop.com and alphastamps.com have some good stuff. You can also tea stain old papers. * * Well, I think this might cover it for now. I hope it's not too extensive. * I always say that encaustic is like buying a Nikon camera and then outfitting a darkroom. (I used to teach photo and it was an expensive startup). I have tried to keep the costs down, especially if you are starting out. Believe me, after so many years I have a lot of extra stuff I will bring and you can fill in the gaps and should be in fine shape. Remember, no stress... it's going to be a fun week. If you have any questions ask away. I am looking forward to meeting each one of you

- Flash drive (to protect and save data to and from Library computers)

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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 | **\$100.00-\$120.00**

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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