

Natural Dyes

Kenya Miles

June 20-26, 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will cover the origins, process and transformative material uses of natural earth pigments (mineral and oxide clay), and natural dyes. Participants will study the history and various applications of earth pigments and natural dyes and their uses in alternative forms such as paint, watercolor/gouache, lake pigments, and pastels.

Earth Pigments are mined clay that have naturally occurring colorant and are also known as earth oxides. This coloring is the first known to man as seen in primitive paintings in prehistoric times and has been a long standing practice of indigenous communities throughout the world. Pigments can be used in many ways when combined with binders such as egg, oil, soy milk and casein.

Natural Dyes are derived from plant matter (dried and fresh, fruit, leaves, stems, flowers, bark, nuts, roots), fungus, lichen, as well as certain species of insects and shell fish. Natural Dyes have historical uses in coloring clothing, paints, food stuff, and cosmetics to name a few. Processes for extraction of color vary from culture to culture with communities having long standing practices passed down generationally. From the Indigo Sukumo of Japan, cochineal from the Americas, Madder from hermits in India, to murex from the Phoenicians, pigment obtained from Natural Dyes are at the very foundation of the ways we have come to see and understand color today.

Objective

The goal of this course is to experiment and process natural dyes and earth pigments into paints, inks, pastels, water colors, and lake pigments while investigating and exploring diverse ways to utilize these mediums on a myriad of surfaces.

MATERIALS LIST

- Lino Carving Tool set (1 per student) <https://www.dickblick.com/products/essdee-lino-cutting-tools/>
- **X-acto knife and *blade*
- **Box Cutter*
- *Brayer*
- *Optional-calligraphy pen*
- *Optional-watercolor, acrylic, oil *brushes*
- *Optional-*paper for painting*
- *Optional-*natural fabric for painting (silk, bamboo rayon, broadcloth, etc.)*
- *Optional-additional surfaces for painting (wood, leather, paper, etc.)*
- *Optional- *embroidery hoop or stretcher bars (Arrowmont studios only has small embroidery hoops available for student use)*
- **Flash drive (to protect and save data to and from Library computers)*
- **Padlock for your studio locker, if desired (For rent in the Supply Store for the week)*

All Items marked with an "*" are available for purchase in the Supply Store

COVID-19 UPDATE

In accordance to Arrowmont's COVID-19 policies, Arrowmont recommends that all students bring multiple face coverings in accordance to the CDC guidelines (2-ply, cloth face covering). Along with additional masks, students should consider bringing additional PPE that they may need personally, including but not limited to hand

sanitizers and gloves. When asked to bring a respirator or N95 for class, please consider the best option for the supply in your area with health care workers in mind.

In addition to the new operating policies due to COVID-19, Arrowmont is providing additional information to students about materials and tools that will be provided in classrooms. If a student already owns the below items and can travel with them, the student can choose to bring these additional items. Arrowmont will provide these items to students but wants to ensure that all students feel comfortable while on campus as some of these items will be shared amongst a class and are not guaranteed to be one per student.

SUPPLIES

- Palette knife
- Hand burnisher
- Brayer
- Variety of brushes
- Mortar and pestle
- Nitrile gloves
- N95 particulate mask
- *Please see highlighted above*

If a student chooses to mail tools and supplies to Arrowmont prior to the class, the packages will be placed in the student's classroom.

Please label packages clearly, including student's name and class week.

Students can mail packages to:

Arrowmont
C/O Student Name and Class Week
556 Parkway
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

MATERIALS FEES: \$110.00-\$260.00

Materials fees will be charged for materials used in the studio and/or provided by instructors for use in the studio by the entire class. In order to keep these fees as low as possible, 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. Materials fees are paid on the last day of class.

Please be advised that above course description and materials list is written and approved by the instructor

If you have any additional questions about this class, below is the contact info for your instructor:

kenyamiles@gmail.com
Travelingmilesstudio.com