

ARROWMONT

school of arts and crafts

Enamels

Kathy Wilcox

August 11-16, 2024

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this workshop you will explore how to develop layers of sifting, stencils, and silkscreens combined with enamel paint sgraffito techniques. Combining the various techniques in unexpected ways will create a very rich and complex surface. For the sgraffito methods you will work with Acrylic Enamel Paints and Mason Stains. The sgraffito design will be enhanced with drawing and painting techniques using mica watercolors, enamel paints, and or drawing inks. Participants will complete a series of enamels suitable for jewelry, small wall pieces or samples to inform future work. Open to all skill levels, however basic enameling skills will be helpful.

MATERIAL LIST

- Variety of Transparent and Opaque Enamels. I recommend Thompson Enamel 80 mesh Lead-free Medium Temperature-Medium Expansion Enamels. For each color bring approximately ½ to 1 oz. each. Select a range of colors to have options. For example: red, yellow, green, blue, brown, black, white, etc. It would be good to have approximately 4-6 transparent colors and 6-12 opaque colors. You do not need to purchase in advance the following. Provided for the class will be Thompson Lead-free Counter Enamel, 2030 Clear, and 1030 Foundation White. You will need for the class projects approximately 3 oz. of Counter, 2 oz. 2030 Clear, and 1 oz. of 1030 Foundation White. If you have your own of the above, opt out of the cost sharing. If you plan to work on larger pieces after the class projects, bring extra. I will also have a variety of Thompson Enamels for sale that you will be able to purchase from the “Wilcox Store” to supplement your supply. (See my detailed notes under Course Description).
- -Copper Sheet Metal (18-24 gauge) The straight cut shears in the Metal Studio will be available for cutting sheet copper. (We will not be using the jeweler’s saw or doing any complicated metal cutting). I suggest working no larger than up to 2 ½” size with squares, rectangles, or circles for initial projects. You can work larger or smaller for extra optional projects. For one project you will complete a small wall piece by mounting your enamel on one or two enameled backgrounds that will act as a visual frame around your piece. Bring additional copper for approximately 3” x 3” and 4” x 4” backgrounds.
- -Copper Pre-cut Shapes for jewelry, if desired.
- -optional - Silkscreens with designs meant for enameling. I will bring a large variety of screens, spacers, and squeegees for borrowing.
- -Copyright free black and white line designs for ideas or your sketchbook with black and white line designs. I will bring a variety of line design books for design ideas. You will need at least one simple line design for project 3 to fit on a piece up to approximately 2” x 2”.
- -Pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler, computer paper, tracing paper, scissors, scotch tape, and black permanent sharpie markers (bold and fine point).

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- -Crow Quill Pen and pointed tip nib. Speedball Standard Pen Holder and pointed nibs (like a Hunt #22 extra fine) work well. There are many holders and pointed nibs that all work fine. Instructor will provide one, but if you have one you can bring it
- -Stencils- any type. I will bring a wide variety to borrow.
- -Small eyedropper
- -Assortment of a variety of brushes. You need a few tiny, pointed detail brushes, a few in the size #6-9 range, and a flat brush, approximately 1/4" size.
- -Ceramic palette tray with depressions (plastic is ok) in a sealed zip lock for airtight storage. Two may be preferable, one for acrylics and one for mason stains
- -Small squeeze bottle with tiny opening for dispensing water. (I have 6 bottles that I can share)
- -Small metal spatula spoon or wax spatula for mixing paint in a small palette depression. Following are few of many possibilities. https://www.amazon.com/HTS-155C6-Stainless-Double-Sided-Sculpting/dp/B01C4QZ7P0/ref=sr_1_5?crid=4RTKMMHLUAE5&keywords=HTS+155C6+stainless+steel+double+sided+spear+point+%26+smoother+scoop+wax+and+clay+sculpting+tool&qid=16454764https://www.amazon.com/Scientific-Labwares-Stainless-Spatula-Square/dp/B079YFFCHX/ref=sr_1_15?crid=316GGCH0A42A1&keywords=dental+wax+stainless+mini+lab+spatula+spoons&qid=1704405464&srefix=dental+wax+stainless+mini+lab+spatula+spoons%2Caps%2C83&sr=8-15
- Toothbrush or small utility brush
- Dust mask
- -Metal Scribe or any sharp pointed metal tool. A metal potters needle tool will work. I prefer the steel double-ended twist scribe. <https://riogrande.com/product/steel-double-ended-twist-scribe/118456> - Arrowmont has some in studio
- Other sgraffito tools. Any variety of metal tools can work that can take off dried paint. <https://www.dickblick.com/products/scratch-art-tool-set/15> Arrowmont has some in studio
- -Colour Shaper Tools (rubber or silicone) come in a variety of sizes and shapes. Select firm or extra firm. Good starter choices: Flat chisel #0 and #2. Taper point #0 and #2. (You will be working small). Other optional choices: Other shapes and other larger sizes up to #6. I have a variety of Colour shaper tools that I will share.
<https://www.cheapjoes.com/colour-shaper-painting-tools.html>
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/colour-shapers-tools/>
<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/colour-shaper-sets>
- -Small metal palette knife (approximately 3/4" x 1 1/4") for mixing paint enamel. I prefer flexible crook neck style, but any will work.
- Optional Materials (These are not necessary but bring if desired)
- I will have small zip lock bags for all enamel powders from the "Wilcox Store." If you want something sturdier bring small containers with lids. Restaurant supply stores often have sleeves of small thin plastic condiment containers with lids. Dollar stores often have packages of a group of small sturdy plastic containers with lids.

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- Your own labeled small flat spatula or palette knife (1/2" to 1" size) for lifting enamels on and off trivets.
- Diamond Tip Scribe for scratching glass. Good for signing & removing flaws:
https://www.tedpella.com/tools_html/54410.aspx#general
- Other enamel paints which are finely ground glass paints for enameling. We will be using Thompson Enamel Acrylic Paints and Mason Stains. If you have your own set of Acrylic Enamels, then you would not share in the cost of the class set. Another suitable choice is Sunshine Paints, which can be purchased as a set or individually.
<https://www.e-namels.com/category/Sunshine-Painting-Enamel-37>
<https://cooltools.us/products/ferro-sunshine-enamels-set-of-30>
- 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)

The Supply Store has a small selection of materials for all mediums. If you intend on purchasing items from the store once you arrive on campus, please reach out to our supply store to ensure we have those materials in stock. Call 865-436-5860 Ext. 25 or email Celeste Rudd, retail logistics manager at crudd@arrowmont.org.

MATERIALS FEES: \$145.00-\$250.00

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 the above course description and materials list has been written and approved by the instructor.

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

kewilcox@comcast.net
www.wilcoxenamels.com