

INTRODUCTION TO SCRATCHBOARD

SAWG Virtual Class taught by Judy Constantine October 20, 2020

BIOGRAPHY:

Judy earned her Certificate in Nature Illustration from the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Art Institute in 2013, and during her studies, was introduced to scratchboard. Impressed with the ease of creating dramatic effects with a few strokes, she continued her studies with Cathy Sheeter, a master of the medium. Judy now is an active member of ISSA (the International Society of Scratch Artists) as well as a Saguaro Fellow of the Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild.

CLASS DESCRIPTION:

Ever hear of scratchboard? It is white clay on a masonite surface covered with black ink. By scratching away the surface to reveal the white underneath, the artist creates dramatic images with little effort. It is a very forgiving medium: scratch something you didn't want? Just grab a pen and cover it over! Learn the basics and get some hands-on practice in this introductory class.

MATERIALS LIST:

Boards: 1 or 2 Ampersand Scratchboards, either 5x7 or 8x10 (available at AZ Art Supply, Sarnoff's, or online at dickblicks.com, Jerrys Artarama, aswexpress.com, or any other online art supply store. Amazon carries it as well.) Please note that if this class were in person, I would give you a 3x5" practice board. Do please have at least 2 boards, one for practice (can be small) and one for your in-class project.

Primary tool for linear work:

Xacto knife with #11 blades for very fine lines

Optional tools:

Ampersand scratchboard tool kit (\$34 @ AZ Art Supply, \$25 @ dickblick.com) or, separately, Speedball scratchboard tip #112 & 113 and handles for Speedball tips, and a fiberglass brush – both the Ultra-Micro fiberglass brush and the Mini Brush with Fiberglass Bristles at MicroMark.com are indispensable tools if you continue in the medium. Dickblick.com sells the tools separately; the most indispensable tool ever is the "fiberglass erasing brush" for \$11.43.

Miscellaneous supplies:

- ___ White transfer paper (must be wax-free, such as Saral brand) for transferring your image onto the board
- ___ A colored pencil or pen for tracing your image onto the board.
- ___ Large (at least 2") soft brush to sweep away ink (hake brush is good)
- ___ Micron or Pitt brands of pen are the best color match for correcting mistakes and adding details (medium size, 05, is fine)
- ___ Mr. Clean Magic Eraser (the "Original") for removing large areas of ink
- ___ Various grits of sandpaper; steel wool (non-oiled); nail buffers, Dremmel bits, tattoo needles, use your imagination!

Images: Have 2 copies of an image or sketch of your choice, one in black-and-white (either 5x7 or 8x10, to fit your board). Choose a high-contrast image for starters to get the most 'bang" for your efforts. You can use your own reference photo or sketch, or find one online (make sure it is not copyrighted). Feel free to contact me for suggestions or if you'd like me to email you some reference photos.

Varnishing: No need to buy this for class, but when you are finished with your piece, I recommend using KRYLON Gallery Series UV Archival satin or gloss spray varnish.

General difficulty rating of various subject matter (1 being easiest, 5 being most difficult):

Close-up of furry animals – 1 to 3 People – 4 to 5

Distant view of mammal – 2 to 4 Flowers/Leaves – 3 to 5

Birds – 2 to 4 Still Life – 3 to 5

Reptiles and Amphibians – 2 to 5 Planes, Trains and Automobiles – 3 to 5

Text or email me with any questions: judycons@gmail.com (520) 873-7316