

Painting with Hot Wax: An Introduction to Encaustics for Beginners with Regina B Quinn

Details: Sunday, May 19, 2024. 10am-4pm

\$125 for members/ \$130 for non-members plus \$30 materials fee

Minimum: 3 Maximum: 6

Please bring a lunch, we'll take a 30-minute break between AM and PM sessions

Workshop Description:

Artists and collectors are drawn to the beauty of encaustic paintings for their unique luminosity, depth, and texture. The encaustic painting process involves working with melted beeswax mixed with natural resin and pigments.

During this one-day workshop which is divided into four sessions, you will learn how to create luminous paintings by building layers of molten encaustic wax - an ancient artform with very contemporary applications.

This session provides a solid foundation for more advanced encaustic studies and is appropriate for artists who are brand new to encaustics as well as those who have some experience but who would like to revisit encaustic painting techniques and safety fundamentals.

Morning:

Part 1: Getting Started: Encaustic Painting Basics

- What is encaustic painting and why do it?
- Getting set up to paint and safety considerations
- Preparing the substrate (we will work on panels)
- Laying down first layers of wax and fusing

Part 2: Layering and Color

- Layering: Building up and scraping back
- Working with translucent and opaque encaustic paints
- Mixing colors: physically vs. optically; Glazing and tinting
- Incorporating India inks
- Simple masking and revealing

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Afternoon:

Session 3: Creating Marks and Texture

- Mark-making and incising
- Accretion: building deep and varied textures with encaustic wax

Session 4: Independent work time & Wrap-up

- Time to work and bring the techniques together
- Other questions and topics of interest which may include:
 - Other media that can be combined with encaustics
 - Finishing edges
 - Framing and preserving an encaustic painting
 - Considerations for a home encaustic studio
- Wrap up and Clean up
 - Sharing work
 - Saving paints and paint scraps
 - How to clean up after an encaustic painting session

Skills to be developed:

- How to prepare a suitable substrate for encaustics
- The process for building layers to create an encaustic painting
- Understanding of safety considerations: safe temperatures, safe fusing, ventilation
- How to work with encaustic paints to achieve luminous results
- How to employ techniques that are unique to encaustics including layering, incising, and accretion and other ways to create texture
- Ways to address common challenges artists encounter working with encaustics

A little bit more about encaustic painting:

Ancient Greeks used the word "enkaustikos," which means "to burn in", to describe the process of painting with melted wax. Some of their works, painted more than 2000 years ago, are on view at major museums around the world and still look as fresh and vibrant as newly painted works.

With the advent of electric skillets and heat guns, this art form made a resurgence during the 20th century. And, lucky for contemporary artists, encaustic tools and high quality paints are readily available.