

Class Description:

Explore the relationship between mokuhanga, traditional Japanese woodblock printing, and washi in this three-week online class.

Mokuhanga uses water-based pigments such as watercolor and gouache, which are brushed directly onto carved woodblocks and printed by hand onto dampened paper. The printing process and the traditions of Japanese papermaking developed alongside one another, with the qualities of washi playing an essential role in how mokuhanga prints are made.

Over three weekly sessions, students will carve their own sample blocks and learn to use traditional kento registration. We will practice different printing techniques and textures, experiment with several types of washi, and see how changes in paper, moisture, pigment, and pressure affect the finished print.

We will also explore paper preparation and sizing, including how to prepare damp and dry packs for printing. In the final session, students will organize their printed samples and bind them into a simple book that can serve as both a finished object and a reference for future printing.

Notes:

The first two weeks will cover washi and printing, where we will experiment with a sample pack prepared by Hiromi Paper. In the last class, we will cover a Japanese binding technique to bind the paper into books. This portion is optional.

Week 1 – Washi + Preparation

- Course overview
- Introduction to washi
- Plate/block preparation and carving
- Damp-pack preparation, and paper sizing

Week 2 – Printing

- Printing on different papers
- Exploring different styles & textures, through moisture, barens, pigments, and printing
- How to dry your paper

Week 3 – Bookmaking

- Organizing printed samples
- Japanese-style book binding
- completing a bound reference book of printed washi samples

Class specific materials:

Shina Plywood 3/8" thick 8x10" McClain's Printmaking Supplies
<https://www.imcclains.com/catalog/blocks/allshina.html>

Mokuhanga Sample Pack Hiromi Paper
<https://hiromipaper.com/collections/new-items/products/mokuhanga-sample-pack>

MM-2 Kozo White Lettersize (Optional) Hiromi Paper
<https://hiromipaper.com/products/mm-2-kozo-shi-white-lettersize>
This sample pack could be used as proofing paper for more experimentation.

Chip Board - for damp pack (**Optional**) - (2x) 12x16 suggested

General Mokuhanga supplies

carving tools
 baren
 news print
 parchment paper
 pencil
 ruler
 pigments (watercolor or gouache)
 nori paste
 dishes for pigments
 cheap water color brushes
 hanga brushes / printing brushes

Bookbinding materials for optional book section:

Chip Board	3x pieces of 8.5x11 (acid free preferred) (or 2x - 12x16)
Decorative Washi	to use as cover, if desired
Awl / Punch	stab version or screw
Bookbinding Cord	5x length of book (waxed linen thread)
Bone Folder	
Brush for nori	Japanese specific, or wide general use brush
Nori Paste	

Easy Starter Option for beginners:

<u>Michihamono Mokuhanga Starter Kit</u>	\$65 pre shipping
<u>Hiromi's Mokuhanga Pack</u>	\$32 pre shipping
<u>Shina Plywood - 3/8", 8x10</u>	\$14 pre shipping
<u>11 Piece Book Binding Kit</u>	\$11 pre shipping

MORE DETAILED SUPPLY LIST:**Biggest stores to look at for Mokuhanga:**

McClain's Printmaking Supply (OR)
 Hiromi Paper (CA)
 Woodlike Matsumura (JP)
 Ozu Washi (JP)
 GoodsJapan.com (JP)
 Michihamono (JP)

Carving Tools:

Basic economic set:	Five Piece "Power Grip" by Mikisyo Hamono Honpo Co
Mid level carving set:	Namisei Moku Hanga (Six tool set) McClains
Michi Hamono:	shop.michihamono.com

Wood:

Shina Plywood	McClain's or Jackson's Art Supply
Cherry Plank	Lumber yards
Katsura	Jackson Art Supply
Magnolia	Jackson Art Supply
Cherry Ply	Find a thick Veneer
Birch Ply	"baltic birch" - has a thicker veneer

Pigments:

Any watercolor or gouache (Holbein suggested)
 Sumi Ink - "Boku-Undo Thickened Sumi Ink"
 Holbein Paste Pigments - mimics ukiyo-e time period
 Akua Liquid Pigment
 Tosai's Gouache Set
 Guerra Paint & Pigment Corp

Brushes:

Mizu Bake:	<i>Water brush, for preparing paper</i>
Hanga Bake:	<i>Printing brush</i>
Surikomi Bake:	<i>Stencil brush</i>
Maru Bake:	<i>Larger brushes you hold in your hand</i>
Shoe brush:	<i>Economical option for a Maru Make</i>
Mixing bushes:	<i>Cheap water color brushes for mixing pigments</i>

Barens:

Economic Options:

McClain's Standard Quality Baren
"Woody" Brand - Plastic Baren

Medium Quality:

Sosaku Baren (Sumi): *Made with a coiled inner thread and a bamboo leaf cover*
 Sosaku Baren (Beta): *Made with a coiled inner thread and a bamboo leaf cover*
 Kurosaki Baren: *high quality plastic baren*

High Quality:

Murasaki Baren - *the core is made from hand-twisted synthetic cord*
 Ball Bearing Baren - Stainless Steel
 Premium Hon Baren

John Amoss: www.tanukiprints.com - re-covers barens

Tools Sharpening:

Ceramic Toishi - Flat Shiageto (KING STONE)

Fine 6,000 grit

Ceramic Toishi - Flat Chudo (MEDIUM GRIT)

medium 1,000 grit

Other options for wet stones exist

Such as *Naniwa Standard Traditional Water Stones*

MAIL IN: Don't want to sharpen your own tools? McClain's has some options

<https://www.imcclains.com/profservices.html>

Daniel Jasa sharpens tools in Portland: danieljasa@gmail.com

Washi / Paper:

KOZO Japanese mulberry tree

GAMPI Japanese shrub, which has a natural 'sized' finish which does not bleed

MITSUMATA Edgeworthia papyrifera. It has a softer, shorter fiber, with a warm tone.

Washi Resources:

Hiromi Paper:	https://hiromipaper.com/
McClain's:	https://www.imcclains.com/catalog/paper/
Jackson's Art:	https://www.jacksonsart.com/surface/paper-card
Ozu Washi:	https://www.ozuwashi.net/en/
Washi Art's:	https://www.washiarts.com/

Other materials:

carpet or felt for your baren
camelia oil or baby oil
news print for general use
parchment paper - to protect your paper from our baren (newsprint also works)
registration board
bench hook
nori paste (to use with mokuhanga pigments)
mylar for a damp book - or plastic bags work well too
flat wood to use with a damp book and dry book -
tape or weights to anchor paper
water soluble block ink for image transfers w/ mokuhanga
hair styling spray bottles - cheaper spray bottle option
shoe polish brush
leather scraps
sandpaper
sharks skin replacement (mokuhanga) - dry wall sand paper stapled to a block of ply