

Intaglio Printing on Washi

Information abounds on the various ways in which images can be created using intaglio techniques, yet there is precious little about the substrate on which they are printed. Even so, paper can have as much influence on a print as any of the other elements used to make it. Washi's absorbent nature works beautifully with intaglio printing as it readily picks up detail & plate tone. It can be printed as chine collé but is strong enough to be printed on it's own.

TIPS & THINGS TO CONSIDER

- an absorbent paper holds the ink such that ink and paper appear as one element rather than the ink sitting on the surface
- with absorbent paper, the ink will often show through on the back side and so the print can become two-sided, with the back showing a 'veiled' image that can again be printed on, creating added depth
- dampen paper by misting or placing between layers of dampened newsprint in a damp pack
- Thinner papers dry out quickly – use newsprint backing sheets and print with first layer of newsprint dampened; subsequent newsprint layers should be dry to protect blankets from getting soggy*
- ink can also go right through thinner papers when printing so print with several layers of newsprint behind to protect blankets*
- if backing sheet and printing paper are sticking when lifting print from plate remove newsprint first, then pull washi from plate (newsprint and washi can be difficult to separate wrinkle-free if peeled apart after removing from plate together)*

PAPER SUGGESTIONS

- any gampi papers are ideal because their smooth surface has the ability to show very fine detail: *Classic Kitakata* is warm-toned & economical, *Yamagampi* is pearly-surfaced & deluxe
- *Conservation Gampi* is popular for chine collé, but may also be used on its own
- kozo papers with a crisp, smooth surface work very well too: try *Hosokawa*, *Sekishu*, *Seichosen Kozo*
- For colour *Matsuo Kozo* (14 colours, translucent) & *Moriki Kozo* (30 colours, opaque) are ideal, also popular for chine collé

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS PRINTING INTAGLIO ON WASHI

- Emma Nishimura, www.emmanishimura.com
- Elizabeth D'Agostino, www.elizabethdagostino.com
- Ryan Price, www.ingramgallery.com

REFERENCE

"Magical Secrets about Chine Colle" by Brian Shure, www.crownpoint.com

* Tips provided by Emma Nishimura

