

Photo Lithography with Clay

Material Needed:

Gum Arabic, Linseed Oil, Mason Stains or Oxides, 2 Buckets, 2 Sponges, Glass Surface, Brayer, Small Containers, Gloves, Xerox Prints, Clay Surface (leather hard, preferably slipped surface)

Directions:

1. Print out images you would like to transfer in reverse on a Xerox copy machine or from a laser printer. The ink must have toner; it will NOT work with inkjet prints.
2. Gather materials listed above together. Fill buckets with water, put gloves on!
3. Mix your ink with one part Mason Stain or Oxide and one part Linseed Oil. (If it seems too thick add more Linseed Oil) Mix well.
4. Put some Gum Arabic down on your clean glass surface where the area of your image will be placed. Place your image down and apply another coat of Gum Arabic on top of the image. Wipe off excess Gum Arabic with a sponge.
5. Pour a little ink on glass and roll brayer into ink and then roll over image in one direction carefully as to not catch paper into roller.
6. With sponge from your first bucket of water soak up water and drizzle over image, you should see the ink repel from the white parts of the image. Lightly dab the excess water and ink off with sponge.
7. Repeat steps 5+6 at least 3 times, you should see a layer of ink start to build up over the image slightly.
8. Take off your gloves if they are covered in ink and carefully pick up your image as to not touch the ink parts. The paper will be very fragile since its wet careful not to let it tear or fold on itself. When working with larger images it's easier to cut it into parts and then assemble together on your pieces.
9. Place your image down of leather hard clay surface starting at one corner, you only get one shot at putting it down. If you readjust you will smear the ink.
10. Lightly pat down image with damp sponge from your second sponge and expel any air bubbles.
11. Allow the image to dry a little so you can burnish the rest of the ink on. If you burnish too soon the ink will smear and too late the ink will be too dry to come off. Try to find that happy medium.
12. Pick up a corner of the image and see if there's a spot that needs more burnishing, if not you can peel away.
13. Don't touch surface until after its fired and fixed on. The ink can go all the way up to Cone 10 and you can also apply a clear glaze over it to make it functional.
14. Clean up!

