

Hot Wax 4 NOLA: design pattern and global motifs in encaustic painting



portrait through pattern and design

By Kristin Murphy Heynen

Portrait through Pattern and Design: the assignment

Conceptual Objectives:

- Define personal ethnicity
- Discover patterns and designs for which we may have cultural bias
- Select a pattern or design for inspiration
- Incorporate pattern and portrait to design a diptych/triptych composition utilizing encaustic painting methods
- Post images to social media for a “soci/crit”

Media Objectives

- Experiment with a variety of techniques
- Carefully plan, sketch and gather portraits, patterns, designs and transfer materials
- Incorporate at least three encaustic techniques such as photo-ground, photo transfer, floating photo, wax cast, building texture, floating text, transferring text or inscribing
- Create a diptych/triptych that is a self portrait through pattern

Student Questions and Concerns:

- What is ethnicity, aren't we all American
- Ethnicity/Nationality/Race: cross-over and confusion
- “I'm disconnected to my family's ethnicity and therefore it seems disingenuous to portray myself this way”
- The advantage of being an ethnically centered family
- 100% vs. Variety of imagery
- Tokenization, Labeling and being different

Supplies:

Basics

- Photocopier/color printer
- Beeswax and Damar Crystals/Encaustic medium
- Encaustic Starter Kit from R & F Paints
- Muffin Tins for pigmented wax
- Recycled tuna cans
- Small loaf pan for clear wax
- Electric hotplate with temperature controls in degrees
- Heat gun
- Natural Fiber, goat hair brushes (sewn not glued)
- Hard and Porous Surface (wood, masonite, bisque fired clay, paper adhered to wood surface with archival glue)
- Metal Scraping tools such as ceramic loop tools, pin tools...
- Surface thermometer
- Medical Gloves

High End

- Encaustic Medium
- Encaustic Palette (If ordering from R & F ask if they have any damaged palettes for a discount)
- Encaustic Medium colored wax
- Oil Paint Sticks/Bars
- Canola or Vegetable Oil to use with oil sticks
- R&F Products <http://www.rfpaints.com/>
- Evans Encaustic <http://www.evansencaustics.com/>

Methods:

- Fusing
- Building up Texture
- Incising Lines
- Revealing previous layers
- Photo-Transfers
- Photo-Grounds
- Floating Photographs
- Collage
- Sculptural Wax Molds

Safety:

- The medium of Encaustic must be used in a well ventilated space
 - Fan
 - Open window to create a draft
- Wax must not be heated over 200 degrees
 - Avoid burns while working with wax and heated surfaces
 - Wax should not be smoking at any point
- Wear Medical Gloves
 - Wax is difficult to remove from your hands
 - The oil pigment mixed with encaustic medium is toxic
 - Protects hands from heat and minor burns
- Tape down extension cords and power strips

Clean-Up:

- Cover table surfaces with paper or canvas for easy clean up
- Once brushes and tins are dedicated to encaustic painting, they are ruined for other media
- Clean-Up is simple, wipe palettes while surfaces are hot and just let everything cool

Resources:

- The Art of Encaustic Painting: Contemporary Expression in the Ancient Medium of Pigmented Wax
 - Joanne Mattera
- Encaustic with a Textile Sensibility (instructional video available)
 - Daniella Woolf
- Catharine Nash *Authentic Visual Voices: Contemporary paper and Encaustic* (video interviews and interactive ebook)
<http://www.authenticvisualvoices.com/>

Helpful Sites and E.Resources:

- MisaFineArt www.milisagalazzi.com
- Facebook Groups
 - Encaustic Group (This is a closed group however, you can request access)
 - Encaustic Photography
 - artistsTEACHartists (This is a closed group however, you can request access)
- Ninth International Encaustic Conference Provincetown, MA June 5th-7th
<http://encausticconference.blogspot.com/>
- www.rfpaints.com
 - Workshops, supplies and materials
- Kristin Murphy Heynen kristinheyne@wheelerschool.org