

Stenciled artwork generally breaks down an image into its most essential parts. Think of graffiti artists (such as Banksy and others) whose spray-painted graphics use stencils for making quick, repeatable images. In this workshop we will cover a basic method of creating and using stencils to make multiple copies on paper. Our focus will be on learning the general mechanics of stenciling. We will use acrylic ink, but demos will cover other mediums. Additionally, the use of jigs to get good registration both of the image and its placement on the paper will be addressed. This one-session workshop will provide a good basis for further experimentation afterwards.

Tools/Supplies:

X-acto knife and sharp blades

Cutting Mat

Scissors

Ruler

Pencil

Eraser

Right triangle

Masking tape, low-tack blue or regular

Small container of water

Extra regular paintbrush for mixing

Paper towels or rags

Scrap paper: good for tests and to mask off areas

Some kind of palate: like an old china plate with edges, plastic less good than porcelain

Tracing paper (optional)

Artist tape (optional)

Eye dropper (optional)

Japanese hole punch (optional)

Any other hole punches (optional)

Decorative scissors, pinking shears, etc. (optional)

1-2 Small Weights, only if available, don't buy (sewing weights, bookbinding weights, etc.)

- (2) pieces of hard (not corrugated) cardboard, about 1-1/2" wide x 8-10" long
- (3) Stencil brushes: sizes can be 1/4", 1/2", 5/8" or 3/4" and can be round, flat or U-shaped. These brushes are stiff and have shorter bristles. It's good to have a range of sizes.
- Some kind of sponge or sponge cloth. The thin, kitchen kind is fine. We'll cut it up.
- 1-2 sheets of Dura-lar .005 made by Graphix (I get the translucent not the clear) 9x12. OR Denril made by Borden & Riley, also translucent and usually .003. OR clear acetate or card stock paper will do in a pinch. Cut these into 4.5 x 6" pieces. Have 4-8 of these small pieces.
- Freezer Paper made by Reynolds (paper on one side, coated on the other) comes in a roll (optional)
- Acrylic ink, FW brand (or another brand if you have some already), that comes in a small bottle with an eye dropper. 1-3 bottles. One bottle of any color is just fine. But if you get 3 basic colors (like red, yellow, and blue process colors) you could mix more colors.
- A pad of 9x12 watercolor paper (5-10 sheets total needed) or an equivalent in single bigger sheets. Suggestions for paper are Canson XL watercolor paper, 140 lb/300gsm, OR Strathmore 400 series watercolor paper 140 lb. OR Canson Lightweight watercolor paper cold press, 90lb. Cut these down into 4.5 x 6" pieces and should have 15-20 of these small pieces.
- Any other mediums you might want to try out: watercolors, rubber stamp pads, etc. (optional)
- Any papers you want to try out, that you use for the work you make, cut to 4.5 x 6" size. (optional)
- An idea for a simple image to use, like a basic shape, geometric or not, no need to be recognizable, sized 3.5 x 5"
- A work surface that is smooth and can get wet and you can tape onto: table top, piece of Plexiglass, etc.