

SET UP & MATERIALS FOR TOUCH DRAWING



Contact Deborah Koff-Chapin with questions

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Having the right materials for Touch Drawing is essential for a fulfilling experience. You need a drawing board, paint, printmaking roller and a generous supply of paper. You might already have some of these materials. Please read this information very carefully. If one of the items needed is not right, you might have a frustrating experience. If you have the correct materials, you will be free to engage your inner process. You also have the options to order a full kit or individual items from The Center for Touch Drawing. If you live outside the US, shipping costs are too high so you should acquire materials locally.

Order materials kit or parts more than a week before the workshop

<https://touchdrawing.com/store>

SUGGESTIONS FOR ENHANCING YOUR EXPERIENCE

Set up your materials prior to the start time. It is best to be in a private room, so you are away from distractions and can focus inwardly. Do what you need to create a safe and supportive atmosphere. Limit the possibility of interruptions. Silence your phone. Let the people in your life know you will be unavailable. Sign on to zoom a little before the scheduled start if you can. Use the mute function if there is extraneous noise.

SET UP FOR TOUCH DRAWING

Touch Drawing is not very messy but it's good to wear a smock or old shirt. Bring a writing implement and journal for reflecting upon your drawings. Have a couple of paper towels or hand wipes available. The workshop will include live music by Deborah while you draw. If you use ear buds or speakers, your sound quality will be much better than laptop speakers.

Sit at a table or on the floor. Cover the area with newspaper or other protective material. Put your drawing board directly in front of you, with a pile of paper next to or under the board. Have enough space next to the board for your paint and roller. You will place completed drawings on the other side of the board or on the floor. We will demonstrate the rest when we meet online.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ACQUIRING MATERIALS

Drawing Board: smooth, non-absorbent surface, approx 18" x 24" but smaller is ok

GOOD OPTIONS: Plexiglas, plastic laminate (also known as formica), white-board, even something like a laminated wall calendar. Tempered masonite, which is usually hard on both sides is ok, though it might soak the paint a bit on first use. Glass can work as long as you tape the

edges to be safe. Other possibilities are a plastic placemat or plastic cutting board. These are smaller but are ok if you don't have anything else.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Do not use foam core. It is too soft. Do not use plywood or mat board or cardboard. They are much too absorbent. Untempered masonite with a rough texture back also absorbs the paint, but if you have nothing else it will do.

Oil paint or printing ink: water mixable versions preferred but not necessary

COLOR: Any color should be fine, but darker colors will show up best. A few different colors will give you more expressive range. But only one tube of paint is needed to begin Touch Drawing. It can be good to keep the color simple when beginning. We will talk about color when together.

KIND OF PAINT: *Water mixable* oil paint is the easiest to use and to clean. Many brands make water mixable oil paint now. Regular oil paint is also fine. It doesn't wash up as easily, but soap and water is enough – no toxic paint thinner needed. Check your oil paint because thickness varies – if very stiff it will be difficult to roll out. Generally the cheaper paints are softer and easier to roll. Printing ink also works but is stickier and takes more time to roll smooth. Charbonell etching ink is the easiest to roll.

WHAT NOT TO USE: *Water based* block printing ink or acrylic paint won't work well. They dry too fast. Tubes of watercolor paint are too small, expensive, and are not the right consistency.

Printmaking roller: also called a brayer

KINDS OF ROLLER: 4" or 6" *soft rubber* printmaking roller is best. A hard rubber roller will work but is not as enjoyable to use. Hard rubber sometimes leaves marks on your rolled surface. Hard rubber rollers are more common, so look carefully. If hard rubber is all you can find it is ok.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Do not use a foam roller or house painting roller. They will not work at all.

Generous supply of paper:

QUANTITY OF PAPER: Have 20-25 sheets of paper for each drawing session. A day-long workshop consists of 2 full drawing sessions, so have 40-50 sheets for that. The ability to do multiple drawings is key to the freedom experienced while Touch Drawing. It is better to have more than you could use than to worry whether you have enough.

KINDS OF PAPER: Most kinds of paper will work to a certain degree. Each provides a unique experience. It is best to have a couple of paper choices because you might enjoy one more than another.

LIGHTWEIGHT PAPERS are preferable. When paper is slightly translucent you can see the drawing take form beneath your fingertips. Wrapping tissue paper is most commonly used. It is inexpensive and most sensitive to your touch. Marker paper or tracing bond paper in pads are more expensive but wonderful. Sumi or rice paper and onionskin are translucent and work well. You can also use several papers found in grocery stores: freezer paper, butcher paper or baking pan paper. Examination table paper found in medical supply stores is great, too. Cut rolls of paper into sheets ahead of time.

THICKER PAPERS are not very see-through. Some people prefer this. Newsprint or any regular drawing papers are fine. You can also use any computer printer paper. The 11" x 17" size is preferable, but some people like working on small 8 ½" x 11" paper.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Tracing paper is not recommended. It is waxy and doesn't hold the paint well. The same is true for wax paper from the grocery store.