

Batik

Batik is both an art and a craft, which is becoming more popular and well known in the West as a wonderfully creative medium. The art of decorating cloth in this way, using wax and dye, has been practised for centuries. In Java, Indonesia, batik is part of an ancient tradition, and some of the finest batik cloth in the world is still made there.

The word batik originates from the Javanese *tik* and means to dot.

To make a cloth batik, selected areas of the cloth are blocked out by brushing or drawing hot wax over them, and the cloth is then dyed. The parts covered in wax resist the dye and remain the original color. This process of waxing and dyeing can be repeated to create more elaborate and colorful designs. After the final dyeing the wax is removed and the cloth is ready for wearing or showing.

Contemporary batik, while owing much to the past, is markedly different from the more traditional and formal styles. For example, the artist may use etching, discharge dyeing, stencils, different tools for waxing and dyeing, wax recipes with different resist values and work with silk, cotton, wool, leather, paper or even wood and ceramics.

Batik is historically the most expressive and subtle of the resist methods. The ever widening range of techniques available offers the artist the opportunity to explore a unique process in a flexible and exciting way.



Fish - by Lee Creswell



Elephants bathing at Pinnawela, Sri Lanka – by Rosi Robinson

Oil Pastel Batik

For this project you will be using oil pastels to draw an image of an imaginary Fish Animal

1. Find images of fish and animals to use as references
2. On practice paper sketch out your imaginary Fish Animal
3. Your Fish Animal must be a combination of 3 to 5 fish and animals from your reference pictures
4. Create two or three different versions/combinations of a Fish Animal
5. On 8" x 8" piece of white paper, lightly sketch your imaginary Fish Animal
6. Use oil pastels to color in your imaginary Fish Animal
7. Crumple your paper, but be careful not to tear
8. Slowly un-crumple your paper carefully; be careful so you do not tear
9. Crumple your paper a second time, but be careful not to tear
10. Slowly un-crumple your paper carefully; be careful so you do not tear
11. Place picture on a scrap piece of paper, newspaper, or placemat
12. Paint over entire picture with the special tempera paint mixture (black tempera, water, and dish soap)
13. Carefully care over to the sink and slowly rinse of the tempera paint
14. Place drawing on the drying rack overnight

