

WORKSHOP: "INKJET TRANSFERS"



Summary: Inkjet images are transferred onto wood surfaces with gel medium, and revealed when the paper is rubbed off. Mixed media embellishments and painting can be added. Wood pieces can be assembled into trays, hook racks or stood as is for photo displays.

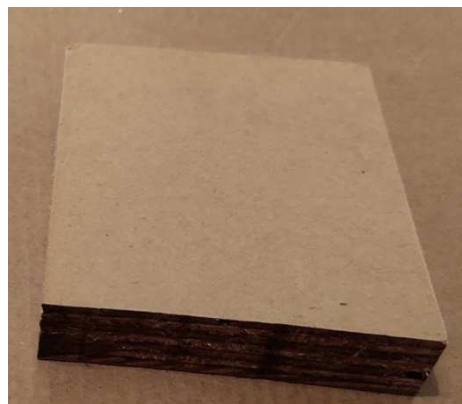
Materials and Equipment:

Inkjet printouts of images
acrylic paints assorted colours
gloss or semi-gloss gel medium
wood gallery board 6" x 6" x 7/8"
2 wood pieces 4.1/4" x 3.5/8"
sandpaper
scissors
optional: brayer
optional: sludge primer
optional: water based varnish (not provided)
instructions/ideas sheet

paint brushes assorted sizes
foam brush
plastic lids for palettes
plastic container for water
scrap pieces of t-shirt
running water and a basin for water (not provided)
wood glue
glue gun and glue
scrap cardboard to catch glue gun drips
coated gloves

Class Plan:

1. Inkjet image transfers can be done onto all kinds of wood surfaces. Here we were using exterior grade plywood pieces and gallery board.



2. Lightly sand the edges of your board if needed.

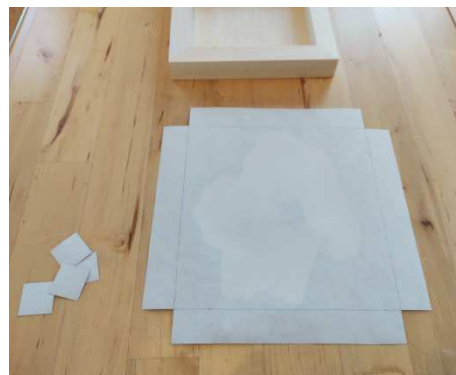
3. Select images paying attention to the printout sizes so they fit on your wood or overhang transferring only part of the image. Trim the overhang areas.



- a. Position your images face down where you would like them on your wood.
- b. You can cut sections of your image, combine several images or collage themed images (e.g. travel). There are so many possibilities.
- c. If you have an InkJet printer, print your own images. Using coloured paper similar to the colour of your wood surface makes any bits of paper that don't quite get rubbed off less obvious.

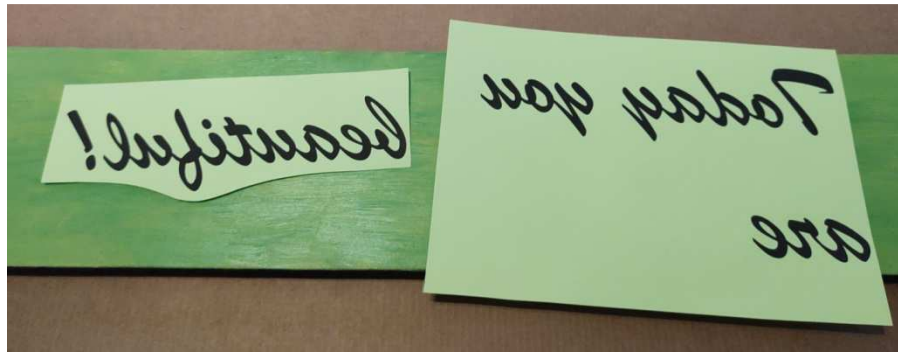


4. For working on your gallery board, measure and cut your image into sections for the front and edges.



5. Reverse or mirror your images because they will be reversed back when you transfer them onto your

wood surface. This is important if you are including text in your imagery. It will appear backwards when transferred if it is not first printed in reverse.



6. Optional: Prime and/or paint your wood surface first.
 - a. Apply a coat of sludge primer to your wood surface and allow it to dry. This layer is optional, but does help the paint adhere to the wood if you want a completely coated surface.



- b. For fun you could use two colours painting them on at the same time, same brush without mixing them first. This gives a nice incomplete blend of colours on your surface.
 - c. You can also paint part of your wood surface without primer for a translucent or layered effect.
7. Laser printouts don't work the same way because they are toner based instead of ink, but we are always interested in experiments so please let us know what effect you get if you try different things. Our laser image transfer worked but the entire image started rubbing off before we could get all the paper haze off.



8. Coat your wood surface in a thick layer of semi-gloss or gloss gel medium. Aim for about a 1/16" to 1/8"

thick fairly smooth layer of gel.



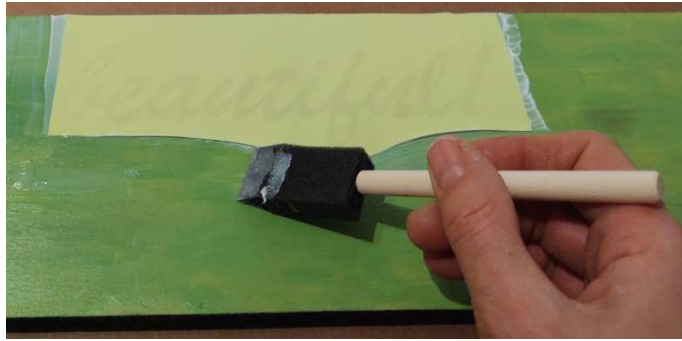
9. Place your inkjet images face down (ink side down) into the gel medium. Press them in place gently. Avoid sliding the images around because it will disperse the ink and blur your image.



- a. Use your brayer to gently and lightly smooth the image. Do not squeeze all the gel medium out from under the image.



- b. Remove or smooth the extra gel medium beyond the image with a foam brush.



- c. Avoid piling up papers in one transfer. Each image needs to contact the gel medium for the ink to transfer. You can do one complete layer first and add more after you've rubbed the paper off.
10. Allow your gel medium to dry thoroughly. This may take a day.



11. Using warm water wet the paper attached to your wood surface and gently rub away the paper. The ink will remain on your surface.
- a. The first layer removed will be thicker. Soak the image and rub it gently under water.



- b. The second layer removed will be thinner. Rub very gently.



- c. Catch paper fragments in a bowl to avoid blocking your drain and discard into the compost when dry.



12. Allow your wood to dry and check if there is paper showing and clouding your image. Repeat the paper backing rubbing off with water step until there is no paper left or until you like the effect you've achieved. Below left is the wet image, below right is the same image after drying. Re-wet and remove more paper.



13. Removing just the right amount of paper takes a bit of practice.
- a. Rubbing too hard will remove the ink and result in a fragmented image. This takes a bit of practice. You can deliberately fragment your image for style and an aged appearance.



- b. Not rubbing hard enough will leave paper on your design. This can be removed by more warm water and gently rubbing or it can be left as a design feature for a foggy appearance.



14. Optional: Add other things to your surface like sketches, magazine cut outs or found objects. Work on your surface when it is dry for this step.
- a. To add sketches and magazine cut outs, coat your dry surface with a very thin coat of gel medium, smoothing it with a foam brush then lay your sketch on the gel face up smoothing gently from the centre outwards. When it is dry, add another gel medium coat to seal. Do not rub the paper off when attaching images this way.
 - b. Found objects can be attached using gel medium, wood glue that dries clear or a hot glue gun depending on how heavy the objects are. We recommend wearing gloves and using pliers to hold and place objects when using hot glue with small items.
15. Once dry add a final thin coat of gloss or semi-gloss gel medium over the surface of your transfer.



16. When your surface is finished it can stand on display as a collage/image or in a group.

17. If you feel comfortable please share your ideas and creations. We love photos!

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

- This technique can be used on painted or unpainted surfaces.
- Inkjet transfers can be done on stretched canvas and similar surfaces than can survive getting wet and being rubbed.
- You can add a coat of varnish to your finished creation to protect it if desired.
- If you are working on a larger piece of wood, you could attach two drawer handles to the surface of each end of your wood to make a tray.
- For a smaller piece of wood with a space in the design or a long narrow piece of wood, you could attach a knob/hook (or several) and hang it on the wall for a jewelry rack or for coats if the wood is sturdy

Trouble Shooting:

- Print inkjet images out on coloured paper that matches the colour of your tray surface as closely as possible. This makes tiny fragments of paper that don't get completely rubbed off less noticeable.
- Images from laser printers are not ink based and will not work the same as the inkjet ones. Laser printed images can be added face up using a thin layer of gel medium to glue them on and then coat the surface when dry.
- If too much of your image rubs away, you can add paint to your transfer when dry. It will likely show because the paint has different lustre than the inkjet printouts. Try adding paint in several areas as part of the theme.
- If too much of your image rubs away you can also add another inkjet transfer image fragment on top and fill in the space.