

SCHOOL OF VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

ENCAUSTIC PAINTING



Exercise #1

PREPPING YOUR PANELS

ENCAUSTIC PAINTING

EXERCISE #1

One of the first things you have to decide when starting an encaustic painting is how you will prepare the surface.

1. Step 1: Choose your size.

You need to decide if you will be creating a small piece, larger piece, panel that is a ready-made size or if you will be making your own custom.

2. Step 2: Choose your prep method

After you know how large your piece will be, and what scale/dimensions, then you can decide whether you will leave it bare or raw- such as the raw wood panel in the prep video, or whether you will be gessoing it. You can also add collage at this point if you wish by adhering papers to the substrate but be careful, the more paper you add, the thicker the surface becomes, and the more texture equals more wax to cover it all up.

3. Step 3: Apply your wax

I like to start each painting with a few layers of encaustic medium before applying any colored paint, but that's my choice. You can choose to start with some pigmented wax first and then add clear and fuse.

4. Step 4: Fuse

The last step in preparing your painting is to fuse the top layers to the panel. Take your torch or heat gun and set it to fuse the wax at a preferably higher temperature in order to embed the wax into the panel, paper or gessoed surface.

You have just prepared a panel for painting!

