

SCHOOL OF VISUAL PHILOSOPHY

# ENCAUSTIC PAINTING



# Exercise #2

USING TRANSPARENT AND OPAQUE PAINT

# ENCAUSTIC PAINTING

## EXERCISE #2

One of the beautiful properties of encaustic painting is the artist's ability to create either opaque or transparent washes of paint. Because the bee's wax is by nature translucent, it can be added as a virtually clear layer over paint or collage. It can also be added to pigment as a vehicle keeping the pigment as opaque as the artist wants.

The more pigment, the more opaque, and the more the top layer will cover over the under-layers. The more encaustic medium, the more transparent your paint, and the more you will see through the layers beneath.

Your second exercise is to mix and add paint to your encaustic piece that is both transparent and opaque and explore the differences.

### 1. Step 1: Choose your colors

It's often a good idea to start with a limited palette, so you can really explore the depth of variety available from just a select number of colors. I would choose a complementary palette that you can use to create some contrast, but also some more neutral tones- such as blue and orange.



### 2. Step 2: Create your palette

You can either mix some colors directly on your hot plate or griddle, or you can create a variety of colors in tins and melt them all individually on the hot plate. Mixing directly will allow more freedom and variety, but separating will keep your colors clean and pure.

### 3. Step 3: Paint

Now it's time to put paint to panel. Start applying some of the mixtures- start with opaque and layer with transparent, or do the opposite and build from sheer to solid. Either way, your experiments will give you the understanding of how the paint works, what you can and can't expect from it, and how to fix any unforeseen problems.