

Brian Larkin White Line/ Black Line: The Provincetown Print Tradition

Materials List

WOOD: a few pieces of 8 x 10 x 1" white pine. Nothing fancy. You can get it at Home Depot etc....often can find scraps in the waste bin. As long as it is knot free and has one clean side, you're good to go. Light sanding helps.

CARVING TOOL: the original white line printmakers were probably using Japanese carving knives (\$\$\$). An EXACTO knife (with the RED or BLACK handle) works fine. **BLADE #19 only.** A better choice is the **FLEX CUT** carving tool # 803 1m available from Gregory Dorrance company in Attleboro. It is about \$20/ might be discounted if you mention my name. The sharpening kit is useful too...about \$12.

PAPER: *Arches Cover Paper* or any similar print paper. Available at Jerry's in Providence. Comes in white/ buff and black

TRACING paper and TRANSFER PAPER and a PENCIL Tracing paper (comes in pads) AND Transfer paper (comes in rolls) The transfer paper comes in RED, BLUE, and BLACK. Check the roll before buying! The RED should be a dark rich color...not a dull rose color. There have been complaints and this stuff is expensive! Blue might be your best bet. You don't need much and it's reuseable/ share etc.

WATER COLOR PAINTs and brushes (flats and rounds): some basic tube variety. Pan colors can be used but fresh out of the tube works better. Primary basics are fine.

SILVER serving/soup spoon OR a **WOODEN** spoon. (Stainless steel spoon will work but might leave marks)

PUSH PINS/ Thumb tacks etc. 5 or 6 will do.

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The White line or “Provincetown Print” was invented around 1914 by Provincetown artists who were devoted to the reinvention and simplification of the Japanese woodblock. This watercolor print is considered one of the only true American art forms besides Jazz. The print is made with a block of wood, a knife, a spoon and watercolor paints. Because of the hand rubbed process, now two prints are the same. The technique has been passed down by individuals through generations. Brian Larkin studied the method with Kathy Smith in Provincetown, who learned it from her grandmother, Ferol Sibley Warthen. She learned the technique from Blanche Lazzell, one of original practitioners and unquestionably, the most famous of the practitioners. Brian Larkin developed a method allowing the artist to use black paper to achieve more dramatic effects, now known as the “black line print.” White and black line prints are highly sought after and are in the collections of individuals and museums all over the world. This course will embrace the process AND the culture of Provincetown with an ongoing (week to week) commentary of the historical art and literary figures who ultimately shaped much of the American art movement.