

Collage with Washi

Washi is an ideal material to use with collage: the variety of textures, surfaces, absorbencies and levels of translucence available provide a wide vocabulary to work with.

TIPS & THINGS TO CONSIDER

- washi absorbs media well: customize your own paper colours by staining with watercolour, inks, fluid acrylics
- most hand and machine made papers alike take well to being pasted with a variety of adhesives
- best adhesive to use for simple pasting is either rice paste or wheat starch paste (*jin shofu*) especially on thinner papers
- try using acrylic medium as an adhesive when painting over your collage with more acrylic paints
- use prints or drawings on washi that didn't work out to tear & cut up & use in your collage
- white lacey watermark tissues stain well and can add subtle layers of texture
- plain papers thick or thin are *malleable* and so can be wrinkled or crumpled to add physical texture
- tear washi when wet to get long-fibred "deckle" effect
- obscure or *veil* elements of the work by pasting a layer of thin washi over top: use this technique to cover "mistakes" or to tone down bold marks

PAPER SUGGESTIONS

- a heavier base layer minimizes warp: use *shikishi*, *hagaki* or *etchu card*, or if a heavier base is wanted, a western watercolour paper of 200 lb or more
- white *Watermark Tissues* come in a variety of lacey patterns wonderful for layering, and they take colour very well
- *Ginwashi Tissue* has inclusions of crisp manila hemp fibre which absorb colour in different degrees for a lovely mottled effect
- Chiri papers with their bark inclusions are marvelous for landscape-based work: try *Kinari Chiri* (thin tissue) or *Mutsu* (opaque)
- *Unryu tissues* in a variety of weights are perennial favourites for their 'feathery' fibres

ARTISTS USING WASHI IN COLLAGE

- Gerald Brommer
- Jill Segal, www.jillsegal.com

