

Dry Media on Washi

The subtle liveliness of washi's surface will animate any drawing. While working with it is sometimes more difficult than working with a Western paper the benefits often outweigh the difficulties.

TIPS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Pay attention to *which side of the paper* you use. Washi is two-sided, with the “front” being smoother and the “back” rougher (see washi info sheet for details.) The smoother side will allow for crisper lines, the toothier back will pick up more media, which is more desirable with pastel or charcoal. Use the back of handmade papers for extra tooth and to show the distinctive brush marks of a handmade sheet.
- *Erasing* doesn't work well on Japanese papers: the long fibers tend to pull and fluff the surface. Try dabbing or rocking with a white eraser or kneadable eraser rather than rubbing.
- Consider *covering* or *veiling* an area you wish to change by pasting a clean piece of washi over it, creating a layered effect.
- If the surface of your chosen paper pills too much consider sizing the surface yourself
- soft chalk pastels will produce richer colour; harder pastels and conté may pull the long fibres on the surface – if so try sizing your paper
- softer graphite will make richer marks; harder pencils will give a crisper line, but may also disturb surface fibres.

PAPER SUGGESTIONS

- all gampi papers offer the smoothest surface for fine line work & ink drawings
- *Gampi Smooth* is a good paper to start with as it is inexpensive and has an interesting surface flecked with “chiri” bark
- beautifully pearly gampi papers include *Yamagampi* in several weights and *Gampi Torinoko* which is the heaviest gampi
- sized papers often pill less. Some sized papers to try are *Kizuki Kozo Natural & White* (handmade), and *Kozuke White & Ivory* (machine made) and *Mura Koban* (small format handmade)
- *Moriki Kozo* is sized and comes in a range of beautiful colours; they look especially vibrant with colour media like soft pastel
- *Hosokawa* and *Kurotani #3 & #4* are fairly crisp unsized sheets.

ARTIST PRECEDENTS

- Susan Low-Ber, www.susanlow-beer.com/tools
- John Gould, www.robertsgallery.net
- Alan Stein, www.alanstein.ca
- Lorraine Pritchard, www.lorrainepritchard.com

