

SET UP & MATERIALS FOR TOUCH DRAWING



Contact Deborah Koff-Chapin with questions

center@touchdrawing.com ~ <https://touchdrawing.com>

Having the right materials for Touch Drawing is essential for a fulfilling experience. You need a drawing board, paint, printmaking roller and a generous supply of paper. You might already have some of these materials. Please read the information below very carefully. If one of the items needed is not quite right, you might have a frustrating experience. If you have the correct materials, you will be free to engage your inner process. If you prefer, you can simply order a kit from The Center for Touch Drawing. All items are also available individually. If you live outside the US, shipping costs are too high so you should acquire materials locally.

Order materials kit or parts <https://touchdrawing.com/store>

SET UP FOR TOUCH DRAWING

Have everything ready when we meet. Do your best to be in a private space, so you are comfortable to focus inwardly. Touch Drawing is not very messy but it's good to wear a smock or old shirt. Bring a writing implement and journal for reflecting upon your drawings. Have a couple of paper towels or hand wipes available. The workshop will include live music by Deborah while you draw. If you use ear buds or speakers, your sound quality will be much better than laptop speakers.

Sit at a table or on the floor. Cover the area with newspaper or other protective material. Put your drawing board directly in front of you, with a pile of paper next to or under the board. Have enough space next to the board for your paint and roller. You will place completed drawings on the other side of the board or on the floor. We will demonstrate the rest when we meet online.

DETAILED INFORMATION FOR ACQUIRING MATERIALS

Drawing Board ~ smooth, non-absorbent surface, approx 18" x 24"

GOOD OPTIONS: Plexiglas, plastic laminate (also known as formica), white-board, even something like a laminated wall calendar. One kind of masonite works - the type that is smooth on both sides. Masonite with a rough texture back

tends to absorb the paint too much. Glass can work as long as you tape the edges to be safe. Other possibilities are a plastic placemat or plastic cutting board. These are smaller but are ok if you don't have anything else.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Do not use foam core. It is too soft. Do not use plywood or mat board or cardboard. They are too absorbent.

Oil paint or printing ink ~ water mixable versions preferred

COLOR: Any color should be fine, but darker colors will show up best. A few different colors will give you more expressive range. But only one tube of paint is needed to begin Touch Drawing. It can be good to keep the color simple when beginning.

KIND OF PAINT: Non-toxic *water mixable* oil paint is the easiest to use and to clean. Many brands make water mixable oil paint now. Regular oil paint is also fine to use. It just doesn't wash up quite as easily, but soap and water is fine. Printing inks also work though they are stickier and take more time to roll smooth. Charbonell water mixable etching ink is great.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Water *based* block printing ink or acrylic paint won't work very well. They dry too fast. Tubes of watercolor paint are too small, expensive, and are not the right consistency.

Printmaking roller ~ also called a brayer

KINDS OF ROLLER: 4" or 6" soft rubber printmaking roller is best. A hard rubber roller will work but is not as enjoyable to use.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Do not use a foam roller or housepainting roller – they will not work at all.

Generous supply of paper

HAVE 20-25 SHEETS OF PAPER FOR EACH DRAWING SESSION: The freedom to do multiple drawings is key, and it helps to know you have more than enough. Most kinds of paper will work. It is good to have couple of choices on hand because you might enjoy one more than another.

LIGHTWEIGHT PAPERS: are preferable. When paper is slightly translucent you can see the drawing take form beneath your fingertips. Wrapping tissue paper is most commonly used. It is inexpensive and most sensitive to your touch. Marker paper in pads is more expensive but wonderful. Sumi rice paper and onionskin paper are also translucent. You can also use several papers found in grocery stores: freezer paper, butcher paper or baking pan paper. Examination table paper found in medical supply stores is great, too. Cut rolls of paper into sheets ahead of time.

THICKER PAPERS: are not very see-through. Some people prefer this. Newsprint or any regular drawing papers are fine. You can also use any computer printer paper. The 11" x 17" size is preferable, but some people like working on small 8 ½" x 11" paper.

WHAT NOT TO USE: Tracing paper is not recommended. It is waxy and doesn't hold the paint well. The same is true for wax paper in the grocery