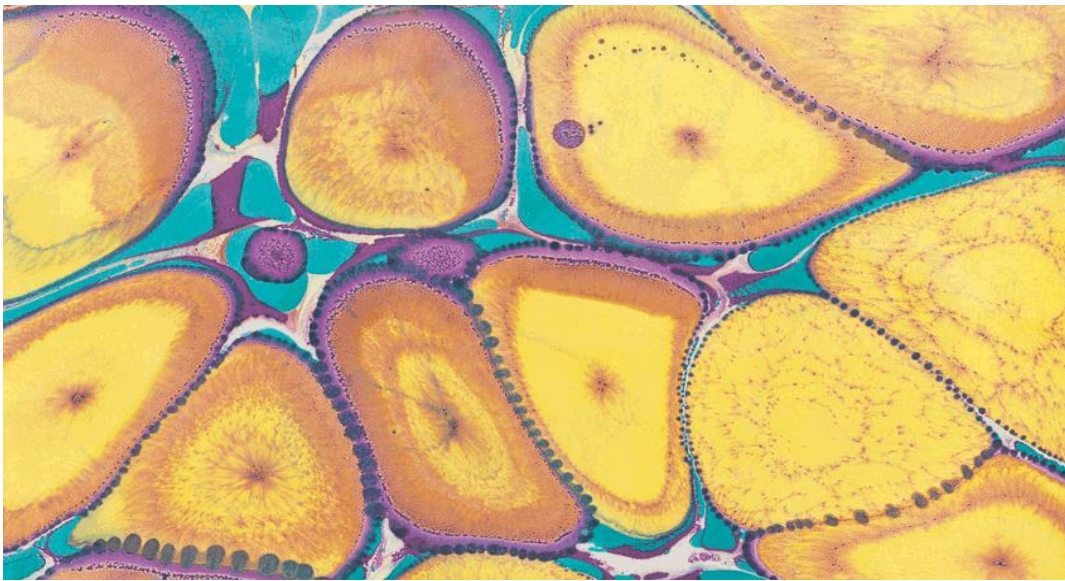


# MARBLING

**MARBLING CAN BE DONE ON PAPER OR A RANGE OF FABRICS USING THE SAME BASIC EQUIPMENT. YOU WILL NEED ALL THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW (YOU CAN IMPROVISE WITH AS MANY HOUSE-HOLD ITEMS AS POSSIBLE).**

**WITH ANY NEW MEDIUM YOU NEED TO EXPERIMENT TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH ITS IDIOSYNCRASIES, MARBLING IS NO EXCEPTION! BOTH THE INKS AND THE BASE ARE VARIABLES. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO YOUR EXPERIMENTING (AND MAKE YOUR MISTAKES) BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT A LARGE OR EXPENSIVE LENGTH OF FABRIC! PAPER IS A CHEAP MEDIUM TO DO TESTS ON. WORK NEAR A SUPPLY OF RUNNING WATER IF YOU CAN.**



## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

FABRIC OR PAPER  
THICKENER - Cellulose  
BAMBOO SKEWERS  
SMALL MIXING JARS

MARBLING INKS  
MARBLING COMB  
MARBLING TRAY  
POTASH ALUM

PLASTIC PIPETTE  
DROP BRUSH  
SCRAP PAPER

## **PREPARATION: THINK IN THREE STAGES**

### **1. PREPARE FABRIC**

Prewash all fabric to remove any sizing. Dissolve 40gms of POTASH ALUM in 1 LITRE of warm water. Soak fabric in this solution, hang to dry then iron at a low temperature to remove creases. (Some silk fabrics will marble successfully without pretreatment with Alum).

**2. PREPARE THICKENED BASE:** Add 15-30gms (approx 3-5 teaspoons) of CELLULOSE THICKENER with 1 LITRE of cold water stirring rapidly. Allow to sit for a few hours for THICKENER to dissolve completely. Keep stirring the thickener so the paste doesn't settle on the bottom. "The resulting paste should be fairly runny but may be thickened or thinned to suit your own requirements.

**3. INKS:** The inks are made to be used undiluted. The metallics may diluted with a small quantity of water.

### **TO START MARBLING:**

The first thing we suggest you do is test the consistency of your inks. FILL MARBLING TRAY with 5CM (2ins) THICKENED BASE. Try to avoid creating bubbles. Do some tests with your inks by dropping colour onto base before commencing your main piece.

Use scrap paper to clean the surface of the MARBLING BASE in preparation to begin marbling.

STEP 1. Dip brush into ink. Shake or tap over THICKENED BASE to distribute a sprinkling of colour. The ink will spread over surface of the base. Apply all colours in this manner. Each colours tend to move differently on the base. Some colours will push others out of the way. Experiment and find out how they behave, it can effect the order in which you use the colours.

STEP 2. At this point many techniques are used to produce either traditional or individual marbled designs, i.e. COMBING, LAYERING COLOUR, SPRINKLING SOLVENT, A good basic technique to start with is COMBING; Gently drag a skewer or marbling comb over surface of THICKENED base and ink. This will pull the inks across base in a 'FEATHER' effect,

STEP 3. Carefully and evenly, lower fabric onto surface of base, starting from short edge. Avoid creating air bubbles, disturbing pattern or creasing fabric, this is a bit tricky but remember - PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT! The design will transfer almost immediately onto the fabric.

STEP 4. To remove fabric from thickener bath lift one corner and allow excess thickener to run back into bath.

STEP 5. Rinse fabric gently under cold, running water to remove excess base and ink. Do not let the printed sides touch. Hang fabric up to dry. When dry iron between two sheets of paper. To finish, wash in warm soapy water then rinse.

STEP 6. To reuse your thickened base, lay scrap paper on the surface to remove the ink residue. You may have some residual ink left, if this can't be incorporated into your next design start the marbling bath over again.