

Lascaux Tusches

Lascaux Tusches are a unique range of innovative ready-to-use water-soluble painting materials specially designed for creating positives for light-sensitive printmaking processes. The positives can be used with water-based screenprinting, acrylic-resist etching, solar plate printing and traditional printmaking methods. The tusche marks will ultimately print.

Properties and Applications

The ready-to-use tusches are for making opaque autographic (hand made) marks on printmaking positives. Images can be painted on smooth PVC sheet or grained substrates. The tusches can also be used to enhance and alter images on photographic, digital or photocopied positives. Some substrates may have greasy surfaces, causing the tusche to be repelled. These substrates can be degreased easily with a household detergent prior to use.

Each tusche has its own distinctive performance and all have excellent handling qualities. Their characteristics vary from fluid, fast-drying and waterproof to viscous, slow-drying and re-wettable. The tusches offer a wide variety of mark-making possibilities, including delicate drawings, painted marks, lithographic-type washes, sugar-lift effects, soft-ground effects, airbrushed marks, application by roller, offsetting and pattern making. The tusches are coloured for easy identification and may be intermingled within an image. Lascaux Tusches can be used directly from the bottle or diluted (in the palette or on the substrate) with Lascaux Tusche diluting liquid, water or tannin mixtures. Painted washes should be allowed to dry undisturbed.

Removal

Lascaux Tusches should be cleaned from brushes, tools, and surfaces with warm soapy water before it dries. Dry tusche can be removed with household cleaners. A non-scratch bath-cleaning pad makes removal easier.

Recommended Substrate

Pentaclear (gloss clear) rigid PVC sheet 700 x 1000cm, 240 microns ADP. Unit B, Evelyn Street, London SE8 5DL, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)20 7231 9668, Fax: +44 (0)20 7231 5494

Size

500 ml

References

© Robert Adam and Carol Robertson "Screenprinting - the complete water-based system", Thames & Hudson, London, 2003

Lascaux Tusche wash

Composition

Aqueous dispersion of acrylic polymer with pigment and surfactants

Special characteristics

This tusche has handling qualities similar to ink and can be diluted to make gradated washes typical of stone lithography. By scratching into the dry marks, delicate non-printing lines can be created.

Working practice

Work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Shake the container very thoroughly before squeezing some tusche into a china or glass bowl. Different types of brushes, paint shapers, rags and sponges can be used.

Lascaux Tusche wash/spray

Composition

Aqueous dispersion of acrylic polymer with pigment and surfactants

Special characteristics

This tusche can be sprayed from a simple airbrush and is required if Lascaux Lift Solution is to be used. Other airbrush techniques can be employed and tonal effects similar to aquatints in etching can be created. It can also be used for painting washes and handles like Chinese ink. When diluted it creates a further range of washes.

Working practice

Shake the container thoroughly before squeezing some tusche into a china or glass container. When painting with the tusche work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Use an airbrush according to the manufacturer's instructions and provide adequate ventilation.

Airbrush techniques

A simple airbrush can be used to apply the undiluted tusche in even layers over the Lascaux Lift Solution image until it is covered. Alternatively the airbrush can be used as a drawing instrument. The airbrushed dots resemble aquatints or tonal effects. Stencils can be used to build up an image. The sprayed areas will ultimately print. The airbrush should be rinsed thoroughly with water after use.

Lascaux Tusche waterproof

Composition

Aqueous dispersion of acrylic polymer with pigment

Special characteristics

Fast drying, waterproof and scuff resistant, this semi-viscous tusche has homogenous covering power and is useful for a broad range of painted marks. The diluted tusche dries to resemble 'toad-skin' washes usually found in zinc-plate lithography.

Working practice

Work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Use a china or glass bowl as a palette. Brushes, paint shapers, and rags can be used to make marks. The marks will dry quickly and will not bleed when layers of other tusches are painted on top. The painted areas will ultimately print. Brushes and tools should be cleaned before the tusche dries on them.

Lascaux Tusche water-soluble

Composition

Aqueous dispersion of vinyl acetate copolymer with pigment

Special characteristics

This viscous tusche can be painted in a smooth even layer which can be scratched away to create delicate non-printing lines. It can also be used for a broad range of painted marks, offsetting and pattern-making. The diluted tusche dries to create characterful granular washes. Dry marks can be re-wet and altered if required.

Working practice

Work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Use a china or glass bowl as a palette. Brushes, paint shapers, rags and sponges can be used to make marks. Patterns can be created by offsetting materials such as painted card stencils, linocuts, printing blocks, embossed paper, leaves or feathers. Blotting paper can be used to apply or lift off the tusche. The Tusche can be used directly from the bottle or diluted. The painted areas will ultimately print.

Drawing techniques

Smooth PVC sheet and a watercolour wash brush are required for these techniques. One method is to draw into a flat painted layer of Lascaux Tusche water-soluble while it is still wet. Paint shapers, the ends of brushes or cotton buds can be used to generate lines of different types. Another method is to paint a thin and even layer of tusche on a sheet of smooth transparent PVC sheet. When this is completely dry a drawing can be made using etching tools or other materials, such as wire wool. The delicate lines created will be non-printing.

Lascaux Tusche soft-ground effect

Composition

Aqueous dispersion of polyvinyl alcohol with pigment

Special characteristics

This slow drying viscous tusche has been designed to produce effects similar to soft ground in traditional etching. Using this method soft non-printing drawings may be made and impressions of fabric, leaves, feathers and other collage materials may be taken. The tusche can also be used for a broad range of painted marks and can be drawn into with paint shapers and other tools. The diluted tusche dries to create granular washes. Dry marks can be re-wet and altered.

Working practice

Work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Use a glass slab to roll out the tusche or if painting use a china or glass bowl as a palette. A soft polyvinyl hand roller is ideal. A warm fan or warm printmaking drying cabinet will speed up the drying time.

Making collage-based images

Cut two sheets of smooth PVC sheet to a slightly larger size than the image. Check that the sheets fit the etching press bed and can be covered by the blankets. Then, working on a clean work surface masking-tape the corners of one sheet down and roll the tusche out thinly to form a smooth flat area in the centre of the sheet. Impressions can be taken immediately or for up to 90 minutes after rolling out the tusche. The results will be different depending on how dry the tusche is. Position the prepared sheet on the press bed and arrange a collage of low-profile textured materials such as feathers, leaves, threads and paper shapes on top of the tusche. Avoid wire, chain links or other hard objects that will cause damage to the blankets or press. The second sheet of thin transparent smooth PVC is laid on top of the collage, followed by some clean sheets of tissue and the blankets of the etching press.

The two sheets and the collage are rolled through the etching press. The image will vary depending on the pressure, which can be decreased by removing a blanket.

After passing through the press the blankets, tissue and the top PVC sheet are lifted away. An image will have offset onto this sheet and this may be used as a positive if desired. The collage will be embedded in the tusche that was rolled on the first PVC sheet. An etching needle is useful to peel each item carefully from the tusche without creating unwanted marks. This lower PVC sheet can then be used as a positive when the tusche is fully dry.

A simple alternative to this process is to paint a thin layer of tusche on one sheet, arrange the collage, lay another sheet over the collage and take an impression by rubbing the top sheet by hand.

Creating non-printing drawings

Secure a transparent smooth PVC sheet on which a tusche layer has been rolled-out to a clean drawing board by attaching the PVC sheet's corners with masking-tape.

Cut a piece of tissue paper larger than the PVC sheet and lay it over the tusche, overlapping all edges. Tape the tissue to the board at each corner. Then lay a piece of drawing paper overlapping the tissue, securing it in the same way. When you draw on the drawing paper (within the boundaries of the tusche) the pressure of the pencil or crayon on the paper causes the tissue to absorb the tusche, leaving the PVC sheet clear in those areas. When the image is complete remove the drawing paper and carefully peel off the tissue. Drawings made with this method have a soft appearance and drawing papers with different textures will create different effects.

Exposing the positive

The tusche image may appear faint on the substrate but will usually expose successfully as the particles are opaque. If necessary, opacity may be increased by dusting the nearly dry tusche image with talcum powder.

Lascaux Lift Solution

Composition

Calcium carbonate in water

Special characteristics

Lascaux Lift Solution is used in conjunction with Lascaux Aquatint resist (see Lascaux Aquatint resist technical sheet – available fall 2004) or Lascaux Tusche wash/spray. Lift techniques are liberating to work with as the painted marks take on a particular characteristic when they are processed. The method is similar to 'sugar-lift' in traditional etching, and the marks made with Lascaux Lift Solution resemble classic sugar-lift marks. When the Lascaux Lift Solution is used to make an autographic positive, the painted marks will be non-printing and the sprayed Tusche background will print.

Working practice

Work close to the airbrush-spraying unit on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Shake the container thoroughly before use. Smooth transparent PVC sheet should be used.

Painting an image

A bold linear image is ideal for this medium and a range of brushes can be used. The painting will dry fairly rapidly and becomes chalky-looking and fragile. Unwanted areas should be lifted cleanly away.

Processing the image

When the image is complete an airbrush is used to cover the image with fine even layers of Lascaux Tusche wash/spray. Spraying the Lascaux Lift Solution image prevents any smudging of the fragile painting. The pattern of dots sprayed will create a tone on PVC. The artist can choose to stop layering at any point. Each layer should

be allowed to dry briefly before the application of the next and in this way a continuous impermeable layer can be formed.

Autographic positive method

Once the airbrushed Lascaux Tusche wash/spray is completely dry on the PVC sheet the Lascaux Lift Solution can be gently rubbed away with soft dry tissues or a soft cloth. The tusche will remain in place and the powdery deposit can be disposed of. Some powder may adhere to the sprayed tusche increasing its opacity. These areas of tusche will ultimately print.

Removal

Lascaux Lift Solution can be cleaned from brushes, tools, bowls and surfaces with warm soapy water.

Size

500 ml

Lascaux Tusche diluting liquid

Composition

Aqueous solution of surfactants

Special characteristics

A ready-to-use liquid for diluting Lascaux Tusches to alter their handling characteristics or to create delicate washes on positives.

Working practice

Work on a clean white horizontal surface or a lightbox. Use a china or glass bowl as a palette.

Painting techniques

Delicate washes can be created by adding Lascaux Tusche diluting liquid to the tusche in the palette or on

the substrate. Depending on the quantity added, the painted marks will be altered or will reticulate as it dries. Tannin and other Lascaux tusches can be added to create a further range of wash effects.

Removal

Lascaux Tusche diluting liquid can be cleaned from brushes with warm soapy water.

Size

500 ml

Disclaimer:

The information provided above is given to the best of our knowledge and is based on our current research and experience. It does not absolve the artist from the responsibility of first testing the suitability of our products for the substrate and specific use conditions he or she has in mind. This technical sheet will become invalid with any revised edition. The latest update is always found on our website.