

Demonstration: Cold Wax Medium (CWM)
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What is Cold Wax or (CWM)?

CWM is an oil painting medium made from natural beeswax, solvent and resin. The Cold Wax Medium (CWM) is mixed with oil paint. CWM adds transparency, body and depth to the oil paint
makes oil colors thicker and more matte and gives oils more transparency as well as adding textural possibilities.

Gamblin uses natural bees wax, Gamsol and small amount of alkyd resin: dries by solvent evaporation.

Basic Materials:

Gamblin CWM

50:50 CMW to Oil paint Oil Paint (I generally use Gamblin oils) but other oils are fine) 0

Supports

Arches Oil Paper (no prep required) used in today's demo.

140 or 300 pound watercolor paper to which gesso has been applied to both sides of the paper

Mark Making Tools

Graphite and carbon pencils, pastel pencils or sticks, china markers, stabile crayons and pencils, graphite powder, RFD Paint sticks, etc

General studio supplies

Artist Tape or Blue Painters Tape

Freezer Paper-white coated

Scissors

Cutting Mat

Cheap veg oil or baby oil

Gloves

Blue Paper towels

Palette pads

Palette knives

Breyers

Color shapers

Clay tools

Bowl Scrapers

Catalyst scrapers

Newsprint

Anything that makes texture or subtracts paint or scratches into the painted surface (stencils, nettings from vegetables, cardboard plastic wrap etc.)

References:

Cold Wax Medium, Techniques, Concepts and Conversations, by Rebecca Crowell & Jerry McLaughlin

Pamela Caughey (I have found her U-tube videos and workshops to be a valuable resource)

Procedure (Intuitive Abstract Exploration)

Prepare limited color palette: White freezer paper covering gator board or heavy cardboard makes good large palette. Mix the oil colors in a 1:1 ratio CWM: Oil. I have used Titanium White (opaque), Paynes Grey (Transparent, Yellow Ochre (Opaque) Quinacrodone Magenta , Transparent) and Cobalt Teal as my limited palette.

Often I just make a simple color swatch board with the names of the palette I am using. It is good reference for later paintings.

Using painters tape or artist tape, tape multiple same size rectilinear shapes on Arches Oil Paper. This demo uses four rectilinear shapes.

Lay out mark making tool including a few color options such as oil paint sticks, Stabilo crayon and even pastel in the limited palette colors.

Activate and energize the surface with no preconceived idea I mind. Making as many different marks with different tools as you can think of all over the surface. Try a little powdered graphite, Art Graf water-soluble graphite, pencils, water-soluble wax crayons, pastels, Conte crayons etc.

Apply thin coat of CWM to entire surface with bowl scraper or silicone brush (optional)

Apply color to the surface with a variety of tools. Scrape back (Subtract) scratch into the paint surface. Just have fun and see what the CWM/Oil does. Note: keep beginning layers thin.

Try using stencils, cutting or tearing shapes from newsprint as demonstrated. Use a light touch as you are working wet on wet.

Try the catalyst tool, palette knife, anything that will make marks or textures.

When you have the surface covered and begin to feel you have done enough, carefully remove the tape.

Try to create differences: sharp and soft edges, darks and lights, muted colors next to saturated colors, patterns, etc.

Let is dry and go back to make compositional adjustments as Desired.

This is a great way to loosen up, experiemnt and just play before a studio session. Keep a record of the color palette as reference for later works Use both opaque and transparent oil colors