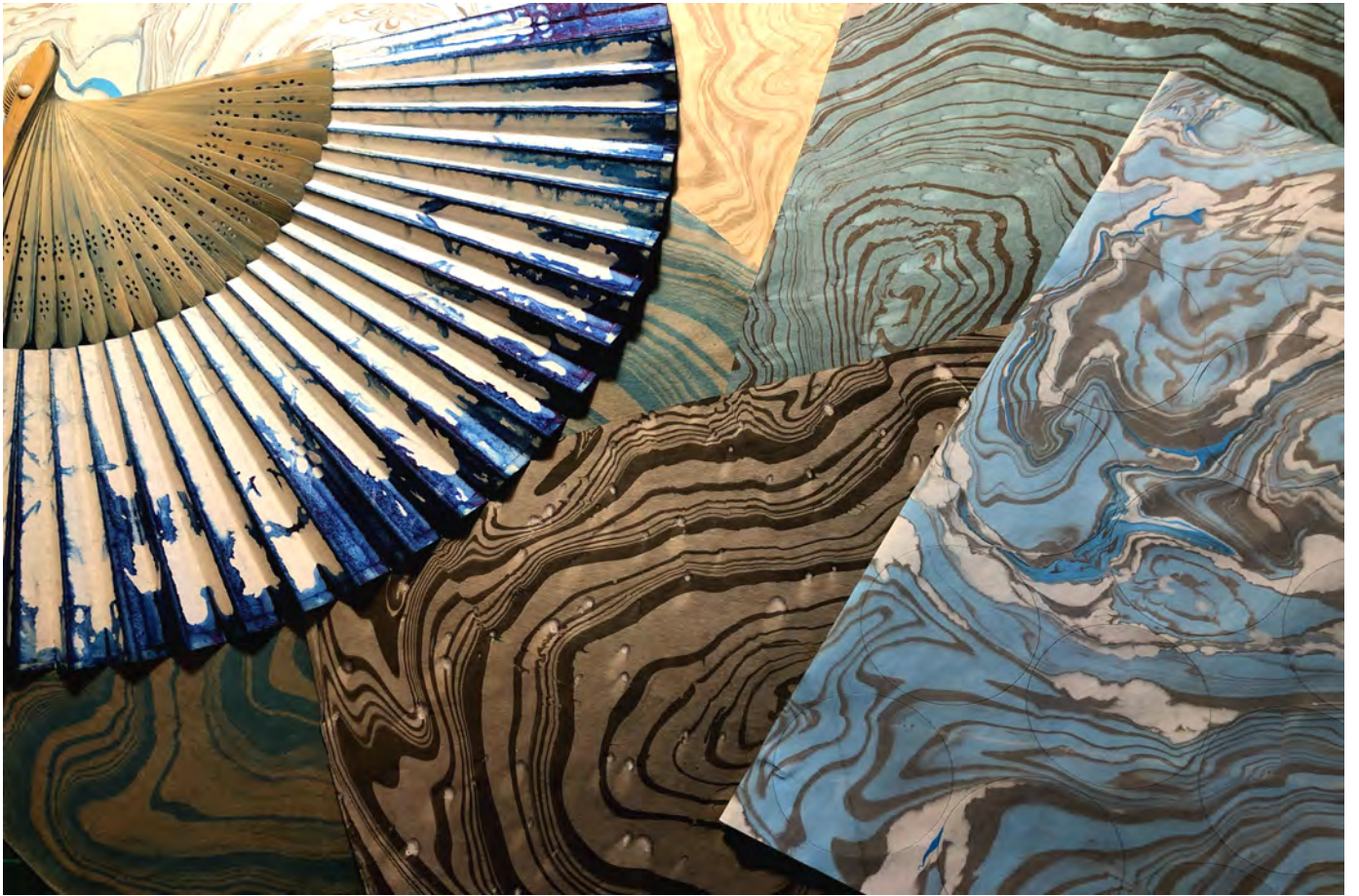




Suminagashi Paper Marbling

With Jeff Rathermel

Jeff Rathermel is a book, paper, and print artist based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts and as Director and Curator of Carleton College's Perlman Art Museum. His work has been exhibited internationally and is often developed in thematic series that explore subjects ranging from mathematical theory and sexuality to colonial exoticism and aesthetic philosophy. Stylistically, his practice is grounded in Surrealist traditions and informed by Fluxus attitudes.

Outline

This one-day, hands-on workshop introduces you to the traditional Japanese art of suminagashi, or "floating ink," guiding you from first marks to beautifully marbled papers. You'll begin with the fundamentals of ink preparation, water surface techniques, and colour control, before exploring movement methods that allow you to create delicate, flowing patterns unique to this meditative process.

Throughout the day, demonstrations are paired with practical exercises, giving you time to experiment and refine your approach. You'll also create a bamboo and paper fan to use as part of the process, expanding your understanding of how tools can shape pattern and form. By the end of the session, you'll leave with a collection of your own hand-marbled papers and the confidence to continue exploring suminagashi independently.

This workshop is suitable for beginners as well as those with prior creative experience who are interested in paper arts, surface design, or mindful making.

Alongside BABE participants, this course is ideal for book and print artists, collage artists, surface designers, and graphic artists interested in experimental mark-making, pattern, and traditional marbling techniques.

Maximum number of participants- 12

Learning Outcomes

- Learn traditional and experimental techniques for creating unique surface patterns
- Develop practical skills in working with low-cost, accessible materials and simple methods
- Explore alternative substrates and base materials for varied creative outcomes
- Discover new approaches to the medium, including methods that may differ from prior experience
- Produce a collection of hand-crafted decorative papers
- Learn potential applications for finished papers across book arts, print, collage, and design contexts

Course Structure

- Introduction & Context
- Overview of suminagashi, its history, materials, and setup
- Materials & Preparation
Ink, water preparation, and surface control
- Foundational Techniques
Basic ink placement and movement methods
- Pattern Development
Colour, layering, and composition
- Tool Exploration
Creating and using simple tools, including a bamboo fan
- Practice & Experimentation
Hands-on exploration and refinement
- Applications & Review
Creative uses, group discussion, and recap

This would be a physical workshop and would take place in the CFPR lab- W BLOCK, FRENCHAY CAMPUS, COLDHARBOUR LN, BRISTOL, BS16 1QY