

## Brusho® Batik

Make a distinctive batik masterpiece on paper using ink crystals and simple resist!

(art + social studies)

Creating artwork using wax resist dyeing is a very ancient art form, and has been practiced for thousands of years! Its first use may have been in Egypt in the 4th century BCE to wrap mummies. Linen was soaked with wax, then scratched with a stylus. In Africa, examples are seen using rice paste or mud as a resist. When the art of batik was first practiced in Java, it belonged only to royal or wealthy families, as it was a hobby for royal women. Each family practiced personal designs that identified their social status or geographical location, and believed that certain patterns had special meaning and were meant to bring good luck, wealth, or health.

Batik has been used as a method for creating many types of designs, most often on cloth that will be used for clothing or household items. A design is drawn with pencil, and later redrawn using a hot wax mixture of paraffin or beeswax. If the wax is mixed with plant resins, adding color, it becomes a dye-resist. Historically, the wax was applied with various tools. One, called a tjanting tool, is made when a small copper bowl with a spout is applied to a wooden handle. The reservoir holds the wax that flows through the spout. This tool allows the artist to draw with the wax by creating dots and lines.

After all colored dye is dry, the resist is removed by boiling or scraping the cloth. The areas where the resist was applied keep their original color ... either the color of the cloth, or the color of the dye that was directly under the wax.

Today, batik is a skill and art form practiced in a great many cultures and can be seen almost anywhere. Modern artists embellish their batik fabrics in any way that inspires them.

By making a batik composition on paper, the ancient method is taught without the vats of dye and pans of melted wax! A gloss medium is trailed onto paper with a plastic squeeze bottle fitted with a writer tip. Next, powdered ink crystals are used wet or dry to create a modern interpretation of an ancient craft.

**GRADES 3-12** Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. View examples of batik cloth from various cultures.
2. Fill squeeze bottles with Plaid Super Gloss Mod Podge and trim tips to produce a fine line.



### Materials (required)

Canson XL® Watercolor Pads, 30 sheets, 9"x12", (10173-1023); share one across class

Mayco® Detail Writers, package of 6 (32929-1009); share two sets across class

Plastic Squeeze Bottle, 8 oz (04916-1005); share 12 across class

Plaid® Mod Podge®, Super Gloss Finish, Half Pint (02916-1103); share three across class

Brusho® Crystal Colours, (01762-); share at least three different colors for every five students

Blick® Scholastic Short Handle Golden Taklon Flat Wash, Size 1/2" (05859-4012); one per student

### Optional Materials

Holbein® Watercolor Atomizer Bottle (02912-1003)





### Process

1. Do a light pencil sketch on watercolor paper, or apply a freehand design using a filled Detail Writer. A small amount of Brusho Crystal Colour can be added to the Mod Podge if desired to increase visibility on white paper; however, the “wax” line will now be colored. Use a Detail Writer for thin lines requiring detail work, or a squeeze bottle for thicker, bolder lines.
2. Let the Mod Podge dry completely for a few hours, or overnight (suggested).
3. Now add color! Brusho ink crystals can be used in a myriad of ways. Small holes should be poked into the caps of the containers using a thumb tack to control the amount of product used. Two or three holes are sufficient. All colors are intermixable and can be mixed with water, sprinkled directly onto wet paper, or sprinkled onto dry paper and then misted with a fine mist of water. Patterns will appear as the crystals expand and flow. If sprinkling directly onto the paper, areas can be masked by simply laying down a piece of scrap paper on areas not intended for the crystals. To use as a traditional watercolor pigment, dissolve the crystals in water and apply the pigment with a brush.
4. For another option, lay down areas of Mod Podge with a brush, and while it’s still wet, sprinkle Brusho crystals onto it. As the Mod Podge dries, the crystals will be suspended and create a very textural effect.

### National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

#### Creating

**Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

#### Connecting

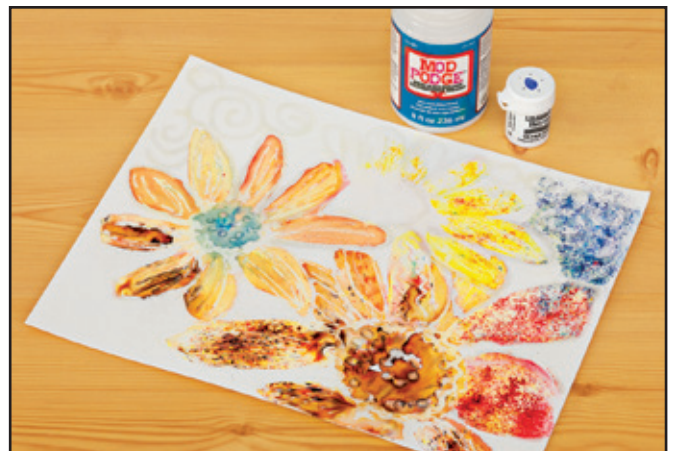
**Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.



**Step 1:** On watercolor paper, outline a batik design with a Detail Writer filled with Super Gloss Mod Podge. Let dry.



**Step 2:** Apply Brusho Crystal colors onto wet areas, or sprinkle onto dry paper and spritz with water. Layer wet and dry applications.



**Step 3:** Brush on areas of Mod Podge and sprinkle crystals to create a textural effect.