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Suminagashi Marbling ~ the Basics

Adjusting the Colors

To adjust Boku Undo colors for suminagashi marbling, transfer a teaspoon of stock color into a divided watercolor mixing tray. Then stir in a single drop of photowetting agent and test the color on freshly skimmed water. The color should readily float and spread. To make "invisible color", used to create clear rings in suminagashi marbling, add one drop of photowetting solution to a teaspoon of water and stir well.

Applying the Colors

Use one brush for each color and another for the photowetting -water solution. Stir the colors well and then, in the center of a water-filled tray, touch the surface of the water with a color-filled brush, releasing a drop of color. Then touch the center of the color droplet with the brush holding the photowetting-water solution. It will propel the first drop into a ring of color.

Alternately apply color and clear solution until a number of concentric rings are formed before blowing them into meandering lines of color. Use your mouth, a straw or a hand-held fan to pattern the colors, but use a gentle action so as not to sink them.

Printing

Slowly lay paper or fabric on top of the floating colors to capture an image. Silks and cottons, absorbent Oriental papers and papers with a high cotton content marble well. Rice Paper, Yasutomo Sketch Paper, and many charcoal papers will produce a fine suminagashi marbled image. Lots of other inexpensive absorbent papers can be marbled -- experiment.

Skim by dragging a newspaper strip down the tray to remove excess color before creating another print.

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For more detailed instructions and suggestions for producing various types of suminagashi marbled designs, read *The Ultimate Marbling Handbook* available from Diane Maurer-Mathison at [dianemaurer.com](http://dianemaurer.com)

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