

## PAPERS for ALTERNATIVE PROCESSES

### PAPER

The higher quality the paper the better the print will look. Watercolor papers and Printmaking papers are readily available at all good Art Supply stores. Buy a selection of different papers to start, and then narrow your use down to your favorites. The choice is a matter of taste and what the photo is about. 'Form Supports Content'.

### SURFACE

There are various considerations regarding surface.

Printmaking papers\*\* more absorptive

Watercolor papers less absorptive

Hot press paper \*\* smoother surface (will produce better detail)

Cold press paper more stippled

The front side of the paper is the smoother side, and the watermark will be right reading for the front side. Variations in content may require unconventional surfaces and paper types, so remain open-minded.

### WEIGHT

Paper weight is often expressed as the weight of 500 sheets (a ream) of paper. 300 lb. paper is therefore much heavier than 90 lb. paper. But heavier is not necessarily better. It depends on the look and feel you desire for your prints.

### COLOR

The color of paper can vary from a bright white, through warm-white or off-white to cream or natural, down to a tan or gray. Some Cyanotype prints looks nice on a darker tan paper, with the highlights a warm brown over deeper blue shadows.

### MANUFACTURE

There are three types of paper manufacture; hand-made, mold-made, and machine made.

Hand-made paper is more expensive, has no grain direction, and four deckled edges and is beautiful. Because these are labor intensive to make they are the most expensive papers.

Mold-made paper has grain and two deckled edges. These are also high quality, made of cotton, are acid-free and will hold up to the long washing necessary for alternative photo processes. These papers may actually have fewer inconsistencies in texture and can often produce better prints than hand-made papers. Typical mold-made paper houses include, Arches, Fabriano Saunders, Somerset, BFK Rives, and Cranes.

Machine-made papers are usually made from wood or wood derivatives, and there is less concern for archival quality with these papers. They are often made for the printing industry and have brighteners or fillers usually made from clay. These fillers may wash out during alternative photo processing and damage the appearance of the final print. Machine-made papers should be avoided. Some quality machine-made papers can however be purchased from Farbraino, Canson, and Strathmore.

### RESOURCES

Dick Blick	1330 Chestnut Street	<a href="http://www.dickblick.com">www.dickblick.com</a>	215-545-3214
Utrecht	Broad & Spruce Streets	<a href="http://www.utrechtart.com">www.utrechtart.com</a>	215-563-5600
Utrecht	2020 Chestnut Street	<a href="http://www.utrechtart.com">www.utrechtart.com</a>	215-546-7798
Pearl Paint	308 Canal Street, NYC	<a href="http://www.pearlpaint.com">www.pearlpaint.com</a>	215-238-1900
N Y Central	130 E 12th St, NYC	<a href="http://www.nycentralart.com">www.nycentralart.com</a>	212-477-0400