



Easy Image Transfer

by Marjorie Sarnat

There are many techniques for transferring images to surfaces today. Some require expensive materials, are more involved than I wish to tackle, or offer iffy results. The following is my favorite technique because it's simple and the results are almost always satisfying.

Materials

- *Chartpak brand colorless blender markers.* They have strong fumes from the solvent so wear a mask or work where ventilation is good.
Note: Other brand markers will not work.
- *Images for transferring.* Toner-based photocopies or laser printer copies. Black and white images work best because color inks do not always transfer well.
Note: Inkjet prints will NOT transfer.
- *Scissors*
- *Wooden spoon or flat smooth burnishing tool*
- *A surface to transfer onto.* Heavy paper, cardboard, and wood work well. Canvas and textured surfaces will give you uneven results (which may yield a look worth exploring.)

Instructions

- 1 Cut out the image you wish to transfer. Your transferred image will come out reversed so if you want to transfer words, you'll need a mirror image to start with.
- 2 Position your image face down on the surface. Hold it down firmly with your finger or lightly applied tape to avoid shifting during the transfer. Using the marker, color over the top of the entire image. The paper will become translucent and you will see the image you're transferring.
- 3 Now use the flat back of a wooden spoon to burnish firmly over the entire image, keeping the image firmly in its position so it doesn't blur.
- 4 Wait a few seconds, then peel up the paper to reveal your transferred image. It should be crisp and clear. Note: You may immediately repeat to make a second transfer that will be a lighter, grainier "ghost" image, which you might prefer.
- 5 You may draw or paint into your image and it will blend into your work. Experiment with several coloring approaches, glazes, and types of paints. I love the look of egg tempera colored over transferred images on wood.