

(Download pdf) Suminagashi: The Japanese Art of Marbling : A Practical Guide

# Suminagashi: The Japanese Art of Marbling : A Practical Guide

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**Anne Chambers : Suminagashi: The Japanese Art of Marbling : A Practical Guide** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Suminagashi: The Japanese Art of Marbling : A Practical Guide:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. "Spilled Ink"By Arizona QuilterSuminagashi is a technique of decorating a sheet of paper with ink patterns floating on the surface of water. It differs from Western marbling in (1) the type of ink used, and (2) the thickening of the water. Western style marbling uses carrageenan, a seaweed product, to thicken the water so that the pigments remain on the surface of the water rather than sinking.Nothing is known about when suminagashi began to be produced in Japan. There are no records of its invention, but there are some marbled papers that date from the twelfth century. The techniques for making suminagashi decorative papers have been passed down as a strictly guarded secret of a single family. The down-side of this kind of living preservation of such arts is that over the centuries they become stereotyped and repetitious. Today there are artists who have developed their own techniques independently. It would probably be safe to say that more suminagashi cloth than suminagashi paper is produced in today's Japan, particularly as kimono panels, no one of which can be reproduced exactly.The first five chapters of this book are taken up with history and examples of the work of four of the artists who have developed their own techniques independently. Chapter 6, Suminagashi for the Western World, gives quite detailed descriptions and drawings of equipment and supplies needed, as well as drawings and directions for carrying out the process. There is also a list of sources of materials, which might well be out of date, given the copyright date of 1991.32 of 32 people found the following review helpful. A Japanese form of marbled papersBy wiredweirdEven the

name, 'spilled ink,' has a Japanese sense of self-deprecation about it. Don't be fooled: this simple and elegant art deserves the most serious respect. Western marbling uses a thickened medium to support the inks. Suminagashi, instead, relies on the fluidity of water's surface to create its delicate drifting marks. It differs from Western marbling also in that it tends towards a limited palette, often being executed with black ink only. The results, however, go far past the Western style in delicacy and complexity. Suminagashi can fill the paper with marks as vivid and dense as marbled paper's. It can also create airy, open patterns as pale as morning mist, the kind that sit well under calligraphy or drawing. Best of all, suminagashi is simpler in tools, materials, and process than its Western relative. You can try it yourself with only a shallow pan, ink, and a little detergent. Even kids can get good results within their first few tries, and get enough different results to hold their interest. The basic simplicity of the craft takes nothing away from the masterworks of the craft's finest artisans. There is infinite subtlety in the play of ink and surface. The samples shown here are breathtaking. The book's value, though is in letting you create images of your own. Go ahead. It's quite an experience seeing the films of ink forming on the water; it's almost magical to capture them on paper for yourself. //wiredweird5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. great little book By sadiemoon I ordered this book when I ordered the ink and I was astonished at the prices some sellers wanted for it. I paid a reasonable amount and got a beautiful book in great shape. It is very well made in that the paper is of good quality and the photos of the art work are lovely. The profiles of the various suminagashi artists are interesting and inspiring. The more I do marbling the more I go back and read the book.

An introduction to the Japanese craft of paper marbling, detailing both traditional and modern methods and including step-by-step instructions on imitating traditional designs and adapting them to Western tastes.