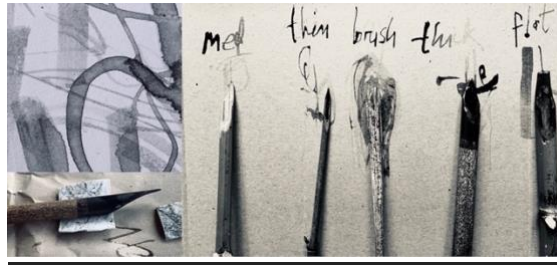


After Care for Black Bamboo Drawing Tools



Bamboo as with any natural plant based organic material, and like wood requires similar treatment and care.

The colours of the canes may vary from a deep purplish black to light brown or at times a deep green and will eventually dry to a darker shade over time.

I often test dip pens with diluted sumi ink before dispatch to check for any defects and the ink flow and hence may retain a light ink stain.

*If you prefer a clean nib or if it is for a gift - please let me know in advance. *

CLEANING GUIDANCE

- When finished using the pen/ brush swirl it in a jar of warm soapy water
- Rinse in clean water under a tap
- Wipe dry with tissue or cloth.
- Lightly coat with any plant-based oil using a tissue and wipe dry to protect the bamboo from becoming dry and brittle.
- Place in a container or best practise is to hang them to dry with all contact surfaces facing downward.

Use with Indian ink - make sure to wash the nib in water frequently, in between and after use as the shellac component in the Indian ink can gradually blocking the slit and effect the ink flow. Indian ink dissolves in ethanol and it is quick way to get rid of the dried ink. Or put about 1 part of soda ash:10 parts of water and use it to dissolve the ink.

Use with synthetic paints - like acrylics, use the cleaning process as with Indian ink followed by the cleaning guidance.

Use with oil or cold wax cold - make sure to wash carefully off any excess paint or wax with solvents and follow by the cleaning guidance.

GOOD PRACTISE

Dip your pen or bamboo brush in water then wipe with a paper towel before dipping into the ink. Touch the side of the nib on the ink jar side to allow excess ink to drip into the container (avoids blots when drawing). Clean the nib at regular intervals by swirling in water and wiping again with a paper towel. This keeps the nib clean and prevents dilution of the ink unless that is the effect you want. Use a similar procedure with brushes. Dipping your brush into water before just blotting on some paper towel before dipping in the ink will help to prevent staining and build-up of ink.

NEVER leave the dip pen in water for long periods or overnight as the cellulose in the cane will swell, and the nib may crack! Place in a jar with nib **pointing up** to dry off.

With proper care these products should last long, giving you years of pleasure and creativity.