



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

Academic Leadership Academy

Office of Faculty Development

Fall 9-14-2018

Cold Wax Demystified Workshop with Miles Conrad

Cat Crotchett

Western Michigan University, cat.crotchett@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/acad_leadership



Part of the Painting Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Crotchett, Cat, "Cold Wax Demystified Workshop with Miles Conrad" (2018). *Academic Leadership Academy*. 86.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/acad_leadership/86

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Faculty Development at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Academic Leadership Academy by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.



Cold Wax Demystified Workshop with Miles Conrad

Cat Crotchett, Frostic School of Art

Held at the Truro Center for the Arts in Truro, MA in conjunction with the 12th International Encaustic Conference 2018

Introduction

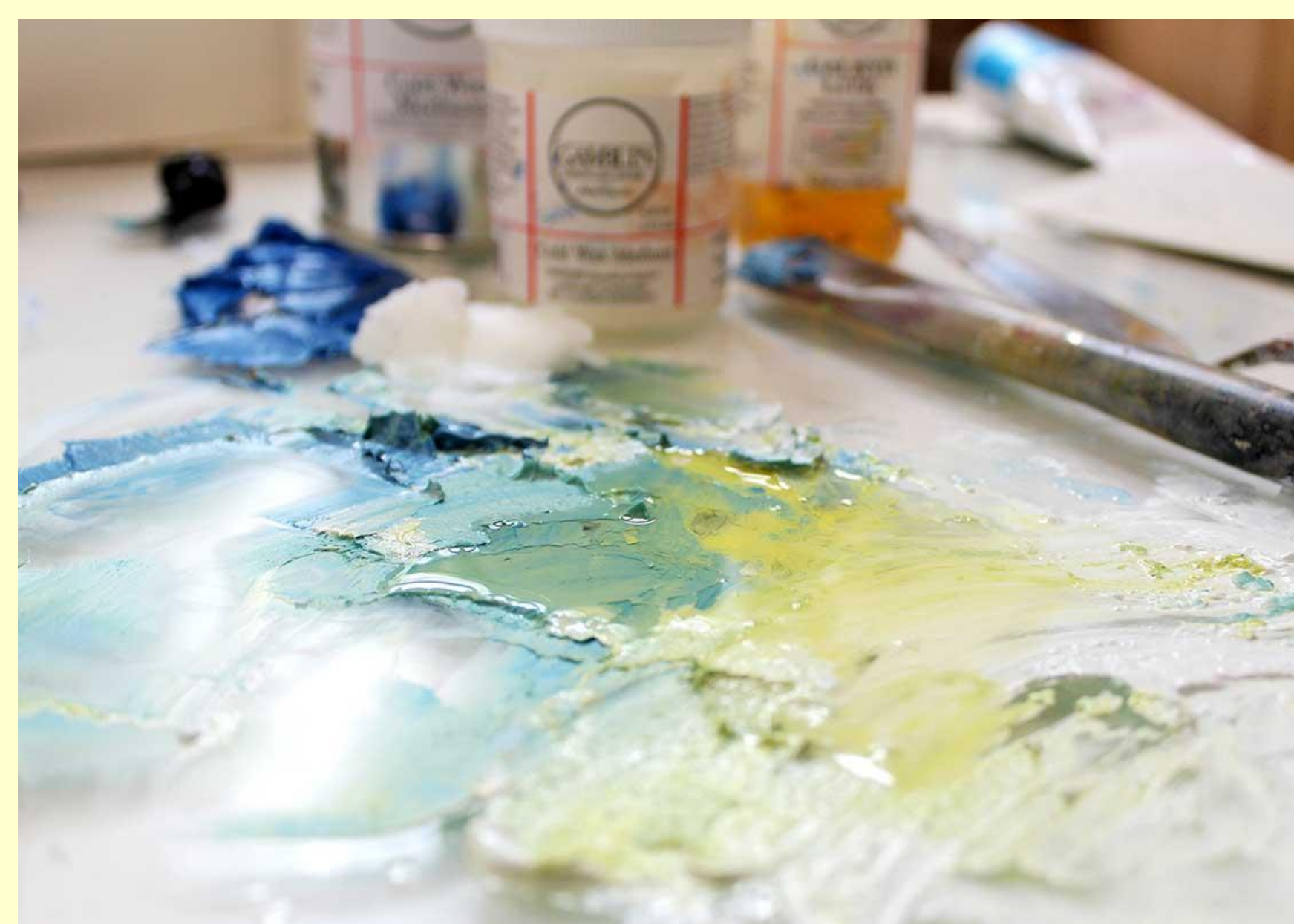
I applied for and received an Instructional Development Travel Grant to assist me in attending both the 12TH International Encaustic Conference in Provincetown, MA and a 2-day post conference workshop “Cold Wax Demystified with Miles Conrad” at Truro Center for the Arts in Truro, MA.

Both of these events provided me with a unique opportunity to participate in advanced intensive instructional encaustic and cold wax topics that will enhance my teaching within the Painting Area of the Frostic School of Art.



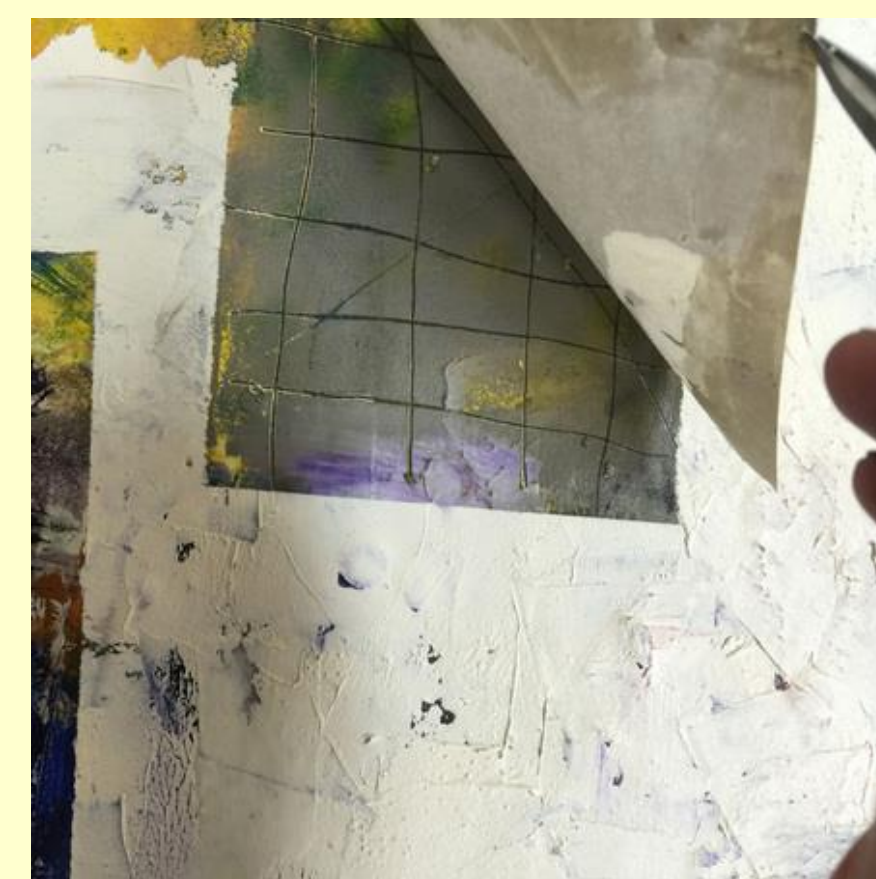
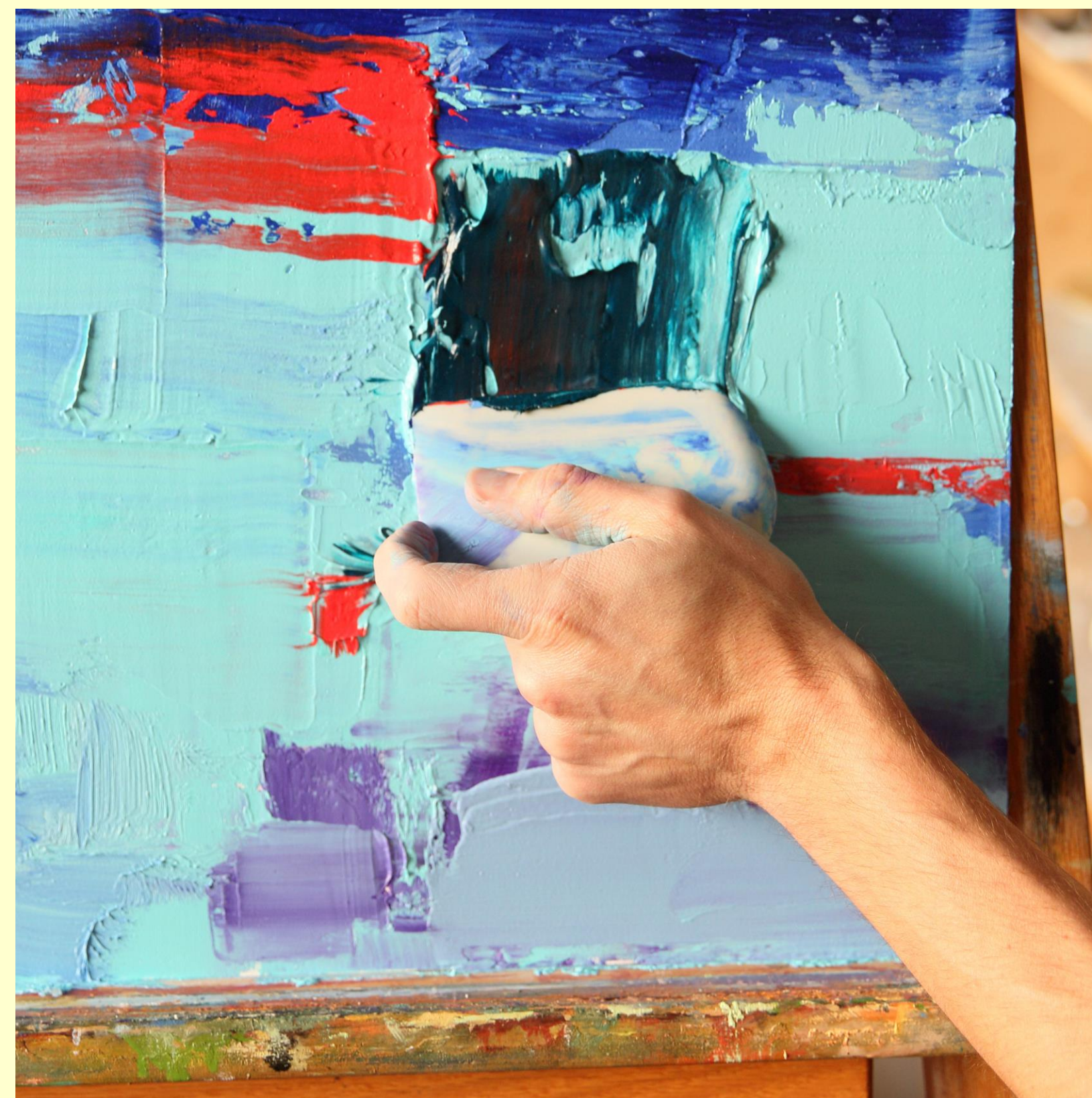
What is cold wax painting?

Cold wax painting uses an additive made for use with oil paint called cold wax medium. This medium is made from beeswax and a small amount of solvent to aid in drying time, and to create different textural surfaces. It has a soft, paste-like consistency and mixes easily with oil paint. When used with oil paint, it facilitates working in layers that can have varying levels of transparency.



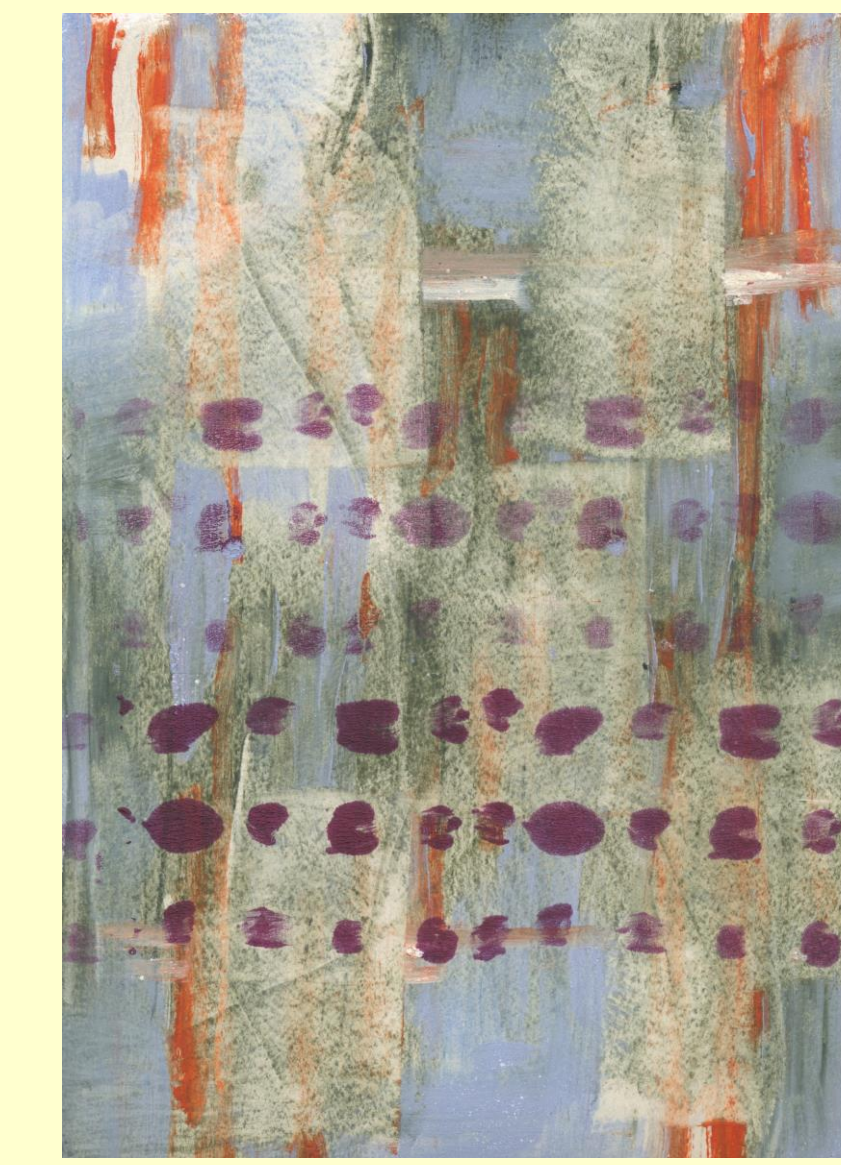
Materials and Methods

One advantage of cold wax painting is that it facilitates the use of non-traditional painting tools to create different effects. Because these paintings are generally made in layers, it also enables the artist to “excavate” their painting as part of their painting process. This means that an artist can scrape away layers to show earlier work done in the painting. As a consequence, scraping tools and brayers can be used to take away information and to build up thin layers.



First Layers

Teaching process steps is very important in this painting method to prevent the layers of colors from mixing together and becoming muddy. Base layers are created to facilitate scraping back to previous work in selected areas, or in larger total areas.

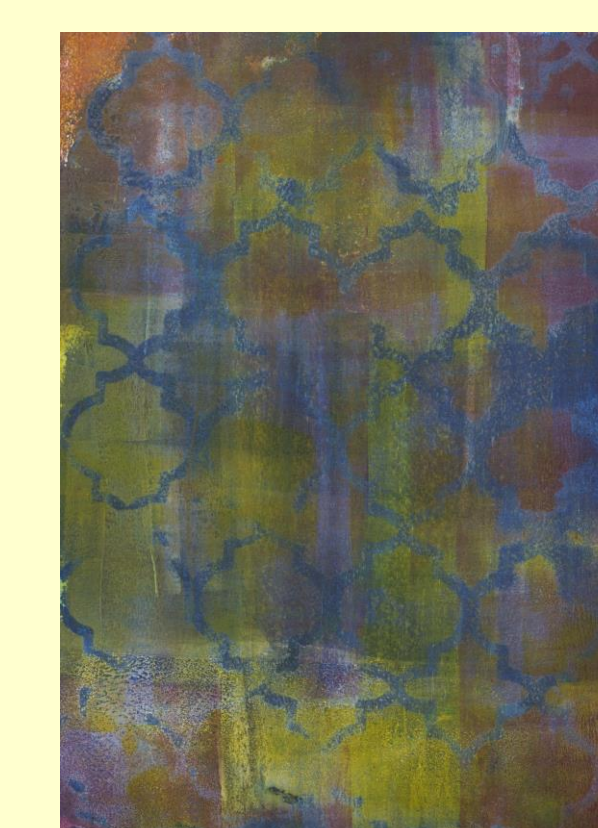
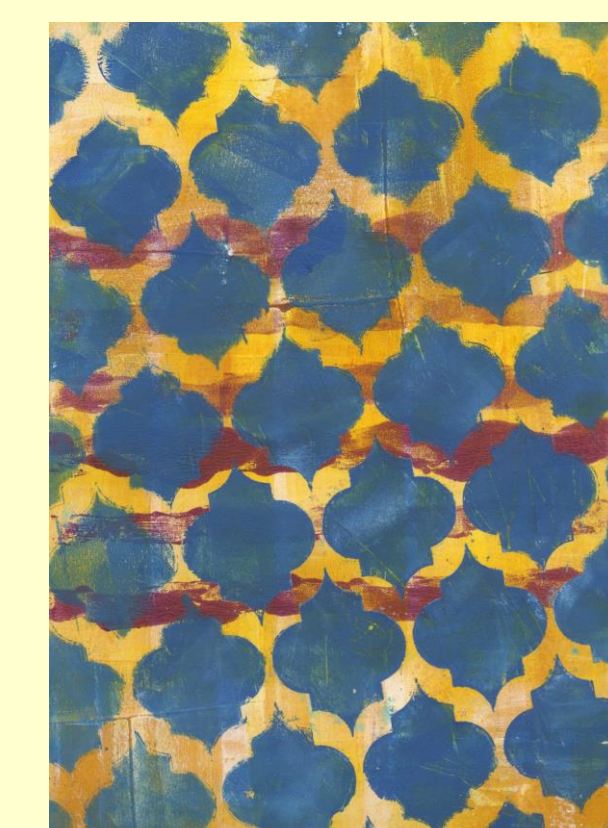


Because cold wax medium makes paint transparent, the painter can control the degree of transparency achieved by using transparent colors, (rather than opaque ones) and by adding more or less cold wax medium.



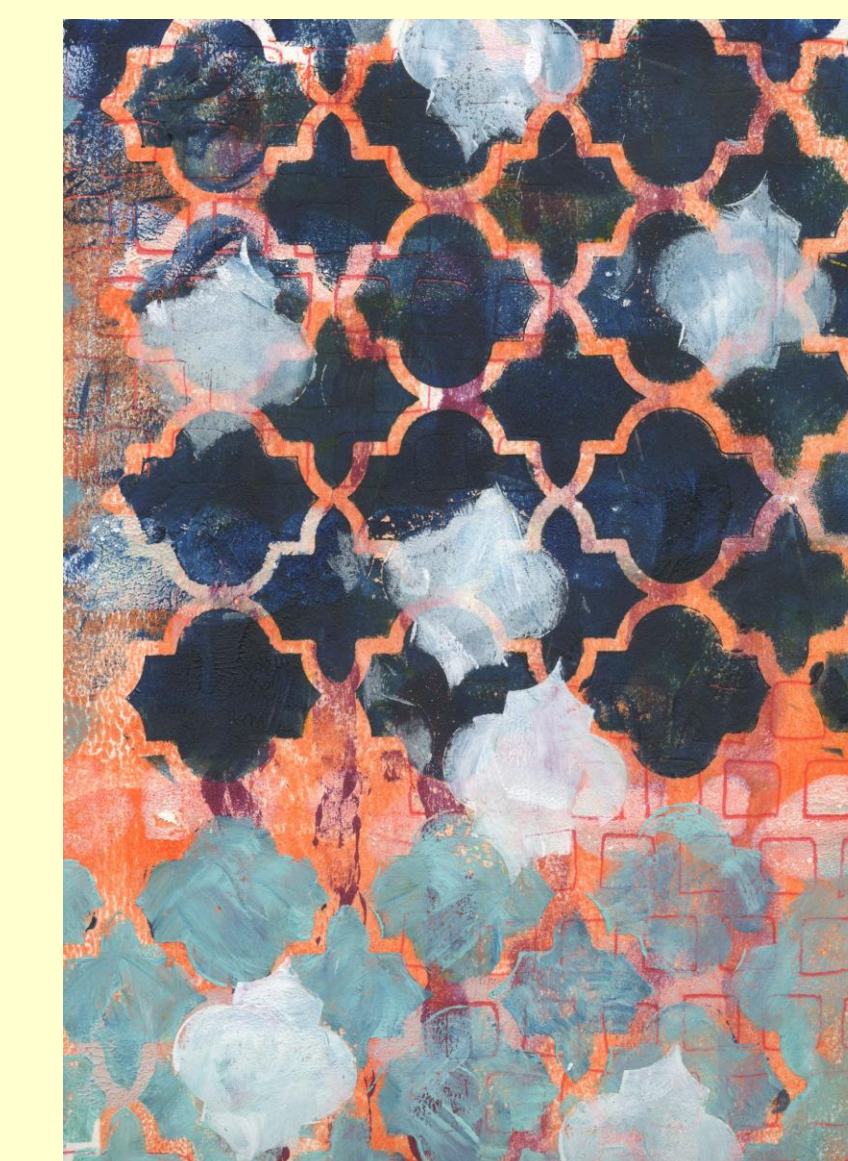
Other Techniques

Solvent resists can add unexpected depth in layers. For this technique solvent is laid on a fresh, dry painting. When the solvent is scraped away, a previous layer of paint is revealed. Below is a piece using a stencil – then that stencil was used on a subsequent resist.



Final Layers

Paintings can be made on a variety of surfaces from papers to wood panels. Final layers can be applied with brushes, spreading tools, printmaking brayers and rollers.



Conclusion

My purpose in taking the workshop on cold wax was to enable me to teach students how to use it in a way that is archival, safe and informed. Cold wax medium can be mixed with oil paint or pigment sticks to create different effects. The information from this cold wax workshop on how to teach cold wax processes ensures that painting students in the Frostic School of Art are given exposure to cutting edge painting technology.

Acknowledgements

This project was supported by the Frostic School of Art Faculty Development Fund, The Faculty Research Travel Fund, and an Instructional Development Travel Grant.

Photography: Cat Crotchett; Karen Bright; Patricia Crowell; AJ Grossman; Gamblin Paints; & Pamela Craughey.