

Materials List

Reclaimed & Reformed

Farmington Valley Arts Center | Instructor: Najia Hashmi

This course is built around upcycling — most of what you need is likely already in your home. Before buying anything new, check your recycling bin, kitchen scraps, and leftover craft supplies first. Bring what you have; if you don't bring your own wall compound or glue, these can be provided by the instructor for a small additional charge. Classmates are also encouraged to share and swap other materials with one another throughout the course.

Surface — Bring an Upcycled Canvas

- An old canvas you no longer love, a "failed" painting you're willing to paint over, or a canvas from a thrift store/yard sale
- If you don't have an old one buy any size canvas nothing expensive just basic or something you want to use in your house decor.
- Masking tape

Texture "Grains" — Save These From Your Kitchen

- Used coffee grounds (dried) — save a week's worth in a jar, or new spare ground coffee.
- Loose tea, salt, Baking soda
- Dried leaves, flower petals, or buds from your yard or a drying bouquet
- Crushed eggshells, dried orange/citrus peel, used spice remnants
- Sawdust from woodworking scraps, if available

Start collecting 1–2 weeks before class — these need to fully dry before grinding into grains.

Paste Base

- Wall compound / joint compound (spackling) — a leftover tub from a home repair project is perfect; if you don't bring your own, it can be provided by the instructor for a small charge
- White glue (PVA) — school glue or leftover craft glue works; also available from the instructor for a small charge if needed

Paint & Background

- Black and dark brown acrylic paint — needed specifically for distressing and aging the textured surface (small tubes/bottles are fine)
- Leftover acrylic paint from past projects for backgrounds — odds and ends are welcome, we'll mix a cohesive palette
- Basic brushes you already own
- An old plate, tray, or piece of cardboard to use as a palette instead of buying one

Our major project for the course centers on coffee grounds as the primary texture material — start saving used, dried coffee grounds early!

Application & Distressing Tools

- Old plastic or butter knives, expired gift cards, (great substitutes for palette knives)
- Sponges, small or big (a cut-up kitchen sponge or old makeup sponge works well) — used for dabbing, blending, and distressing texture
- Sandpaper — even a used/worn piece works for distressing

- Rags, an old sock, or paper towels for wash and patina work
- A dry, unused paintbrush for dusting/blending distressed areas

Finishing

- Sealant or varnish — leftover from a past project is fine, or we'll have a class supply to share
- A container with a lid for mixing/storing leftover paste between sessions

Provided by the Studio (For a Small Charge) & Shared Among Classmates

- Wall compound and white glue — available from the instructor for a small charge if you don't bring your own
- A basic acrylic palette for anyone starting from scratch
- Mixing containers, gloves, and drop cloths
- A shared "swap table" for extra grains, scrap canvas, or tools — bring extra of anything you have, and borrow what you need

Questions about a substitution or something you're not sure will work? Bring it anyway — half the fun of this technique is discovering what an unexpected material does.