

ANNA KOOT



Anna Koot is an encaustic artist residing in St. Marys, Ontario. The rural setting in which she lives continues to influence her art. After many years of studying a variety of mediums, she has fallen in love with encaustic art.

The ancient art form of encaustic uses natural beeswax, mixed with resin and pure pigment. The aroma of beeswax fills her studio, as tins of coloured wax are melted to begin another painting. Heat is a very important element in her process. The wax is melted, allowing it to be painted onto the surface with brushes, and then repeatedly reheated using her favourite tool, a propane torch. "Every girl should own one."

What is Encaustic?

The first question I usually get when people look at my work is "what is this made of?" I get a second look when I explain that it is beeswax. 'Yes,' I paint with beeswax.

The painting medium is made from natural beeswax, damar resin and pigment.

Heat is used at every stage of the encaustic process. The medium sits in small tins on a heated griddle keeping the wax liquid and workable. The brushes are usually kept in the tins with the molten wax, ready for painting. I need to work quickly, as the wax starts to harden as soon as it leaves the heated surface. What makes the process encaustic, is that heat has to be applied to each layer of wax. This is known as fusing. Fusing, melts and binds the layers of wax to each other.

The medium is very textural and viewers are encouraged to touch the surface. The warmth of someone's hand will make the surface glow.

