

Glassless Framing

*presented by
Jerilynne Nibbe 9/22/06*

Materials:

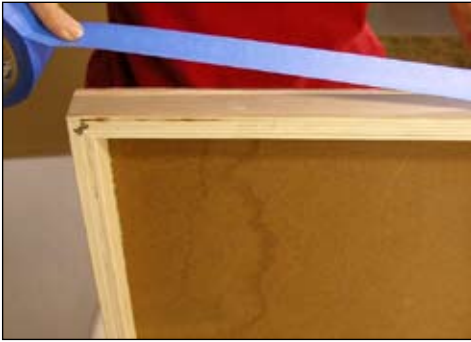
- Claybord Cradle or Birch and masonite box
- Watercolor painting on 90# to 300# paper (the painting should be at least 1-2 inches larger than the cradle).
- Golden Soft Gel Medium—Gloss or Matte
- Golden Spray UV Protection Varnish—Gloss
- Golden Spray UV Protection Varnish—Matte
- Cheap Brushes—2-3 inch bristle or sponge brushes for applying Soft Gel
- Spray Bottle / container of water
- Sponge or Hake Brush for spreading water
- Towel
- Plastic to protect painting while gluing painting to cradle board surface
- Rolling pin / brayer (optional)
- Painter's tape
- Wallboard, or other weights for drying
- Dust Mask
- Sanding block
- Xacto Knife or razor blade
- Cutting Mat
- Paper towels



Procedures:

- Gather your materials.
- Use a large, clean flat work surface.
- Use painter's tape to cover the birch sides of the cradle board and protect them from excess gel.
- Place your painting face down on a clean, dry towel.
- Wet the back of the painting with clean water using a Hake brush or spray bottle. Apply enough water to make the paper thoroughly and evenly damp (the heavier the paper the more water you will need to use).
- Lightly spray the cradle board surface with water.
- Apply a generous, even coat of gel medium to the dampened cradle board.
- Center the dampened painting face up on the gelled cradle board.
- Place a protective plastic sheet on top and press firmly with your hands working from the center outwards to push out any air pockets.
- You can also use a rolling pin for larger surfaces.
- Keep pressing until you are sure that there are no air pockets and that the surface is firmly attached
- Remove the plastic.
- Place a weight on top of the painting to maintain pressure to ensure a flat surface on drying.
- Wall board pieces make good weights as they will also act to absorb moisture and speed even drying.
- Allow at least 24 hours for drying before removing weights.
- When completely dry, invert piece onto a cutting mat.
- Use an Xacto knife to trim painting edges flush with the sides of the board.
- With a sanding block use a downward motion to sand the edges smooth.
- Spray the surface of the painting with 5-6 coats of Golden Spray UV Protection Varnish—Gloss, allowing each coat to dry thoroughly. This should be done out-of-doors and you should wear a protective mask.
- Finish with 2 coats of Golden Spray UV Protection Varnish—Matte, again allowing each coat to dry.

Procedure Photos



taping the cradle board



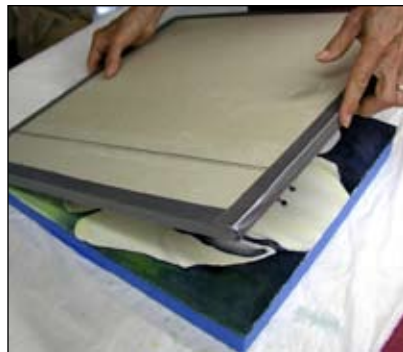
wetting the back of the painting



applying the gel soft medium



pressing out air bubbles



adding weight for drying



trimming edges with Xacto



sanding edges

Materials Resources:

- Claybord Cradles:
ASW, Daniel Smith, Cheap Joe's, and other art materials catalogues.
ASW has best prices.
Local Art supply stores—Art Essentials gives discount to Adult Ed. students and artists.
- Golden Medium and UV sprays:
Art supply catalogues and Art Essentials
- Cheap Brushes and painter's tape:
Home Depot, OSH, and other home improvement and hardware stores.

More Information:

The following articles are available on the Internet:

- Daniel Smith Article — <http://danielsmith.com/Articles/Glassless-with-Watermedia.asp>
- Ampersand Art Supply Article — http://www.ampersandart.com/tips/dustin_knight_1/watercolor_with_out_glass.html
- Birgit O'Connor's DVD — available for rental at http://smartflix.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=2304 or purchase at Birgit's web site: <http://www.birgitoconnor.com/>



spraying the varnish