

## AIGUATINTA

Tècnica d'incisió indirecta en què es desgreixa la planxa i es cobreix d'una capa de **resina colofònia**, que s'hi adhereix per l'escalfor, per formar uns grans inatacables per l'àcid i uns intersticis que són atacats pel mordent.

Una resina és una substància orgànica, principalment d'origen vegetal, sòlida o semisòlida, groga o bruna, transparent o translúcida, i soluble en l'èter i l'alcohol, utilitzada per a obtenir el gra en un gravat a l'aiguatinta.

La resina es pot aplicar directament o de forma mecànica dins d'una caixa resinadora.

Després de l'aplicació cal escalfar la planxa perquè la resina es dissolgui i s'adhereixi damunt la matriu.

S'ha demostrat que la resina colofònia es molt perjudicial per a la salut, per crear problemes respiratoris i al·lèrgics. A més a més és un perill pel taller ja que és un producte explosiu.

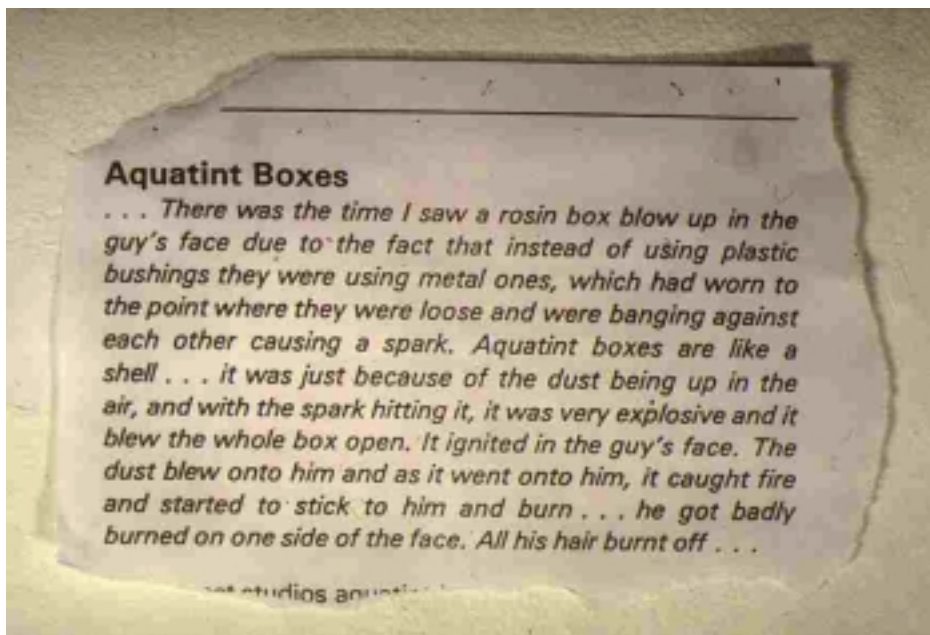


### **The Kamakura Print Collection ~ Printmaking Health and Safety**

*“Dusts and powders. These include rosin and asphaltum used in aquatinting copperplates, dry pigments for mixing ink, and various chemicals supplied in powder form. All of these are dangerous to breathe because the fine particles fill up the oxygen-carrying*

*passages of the lungs, much like coal dust, asbestos, or tobacco smoke. Lung cancer and emphysema can result from repeated exposure. The CSA says: “Rosin dust may cause asthma and allergic dermatitis. There is the hazard of explosion from the buildup of rosin dust, in enclosed rosin boxes, around an ignition source. Rosin dust (and asphaltum dust which is also sometimes used) is combustible. Sparks or static electricity have caused explosions in enclosed rosin and aquatint boxes.”*

Although ventilation is often recommended when working with dusts and powders, strong air currents can interfere with the aquatinting operation or spread dust throughout the workshop. For aquatinting, I have found that wearing a dust mask, then using strong exhaust ventilation after the asphaltum powder is adhered to the copperplate, is best. I wear the dust mask throughout the aquatinting operation; it always picks up a surprisingly large amount of dust that would have otherwise been inhaled. Dust masks are available from: Daniel Smith, 4130 First Avenue South, Seattle, Washington, USA 98134. New and better screens are being developed that can provide an effective substitute for aquatint dust grain”.



### **Aquatint Boxes**

. . . There was the time I saw a rosin box blow up in the guy's face due to the fact that instead of using plastic bushings they were using metal ones, which had worn to the point where they were loose and were banging against each other causing a spark. Aquatint boxes are like a shell . . . it was just because of the dust being up in the air, and with the spark hitting it, it was very explosive and it blew the whole box open. It ignited in the guy's face. The dust blew onto him and as it went onto him, it caught fire and started to stick to him and burn . . . he got badly burned on one side of the face. All his hair burnt off . . .

set studios aquatint

## L'AERÒGRAF: UNA ALTERNATIVA ECOLÒGICA

Una alternativa a la resina colfònia o el betum de judea per a tramar la planxa és el vernís acrílic resistent al mordent aplicat amb l'aerògraf.

Es indispensable aplicar el vernís en un armari tancat que disposi d'un abstractor de fums amb un filtre de carboni o que estigui connectat a l'exterior. Per evitar l'inhalació del vernís es recomana l'ús d'una màscara protectora.

