

# SUMINAGASHI

## 'Spilled Ink'

A decorative graphic of red ink splatters and swirls, resembling a traditional Suminagashi pattern, located in the upper right corner of the page.

The word “Suminagashi” translates literally as “spilled ink”. Centuries before the art of marbleizing papers was practised in Western cultures, Japanese craftsmen created patterns by floating ink on the surface of water and transferring it to a sheet of paper. Because the nature of the water is ever-changing and constantly moving, Suminagashi printers are viewed as great masters of control. Each Monoprint is like a fingerprint – unique and unreproducible.

### Preparation

- Fill a plastic or aluminium pan/tub with a minimum of 3cm of water. No other additives are required.
- Cut down your paper to fit inside of the tub. For best results, use an unsized paper at least 175gsm.
- Have your paper towel ready for blotting.

### Process: Tradition Suminagashi

**1.** circles of two or more colours, sometimes hundreds in one print. To make a traditional print, use two very small brushes and a small amount of two colours of Ink. Load each brush with a different colour. Touch one brush very gently to the surface of the water to apply the first colour. Touch the second brush inside the first ink float. Repeat, over and over again, alternating colours. Reload the brushes when needed. Make a single set of concentric circles, or make a few on the surface of the water. At this stage you can use a matchstick or the end of a paint brush to gently move through the water and spread the ink to create a unique effect.

**2.** Make a print by laying unsized paper onto the surface of the water as flat as possible. The paper will absorb the ink immediately. Lift the paper carefully and blot gently between two paper towels and allow to dry.

**NB** – Ink may react to additives in some public water sources. Test ink first to see if it floats easily on top of the water. If it sinks too much, you may want to use filtered water.