

# *A* Ann Ranlett

The ink on scratchboard class will teach you the basic techniques for working on scratchboard, a unique and forgiving surface. Contrast, tone, texture, composition, use of negative space, and of course, how to use a pen & knife will be discussed. Drawing skills are helpful but not required. I will provide additional handouts in class.

**\*\* There will not be time to draw in class, so please bring a photo or drawing ready to be transferred to the scratchboard.** Your photo or drawing should have plenty of contrast. Transfer paper and scratchboard will be provided. The boards we'll be using are 5" x 7" and 1/8" thick – plan on having your drawing can go to the edge of the board, so size/print your photo to 5" x 7". Make a copy also, since you'll be drawing over the top of one of the copies in order to transfer the image. If you're using a color photo, it's helpful to have a greyscale version to better see the contrast and tones without being distracted by the colors. If there's time, you'll be able to start a second drawing, bring a 4" x 4" image for that.



This is an example of the type of image that works well for scratchboard drawings. The goose has good contrast and a range of grey tones. This background would not be included.

Even though my favorite subjects are animals, your image does not have to be! You'll be learning techniques that can be applied to any subject, so choose something you like.



This is an example of the type of image that does not work well for scratchboard drawings. There's very little contrast – the tones are all shades of grey. Grey tones are much harder to create with scratchboard techniques.



This is the same image with the contrast adjusted. This version would work better as a scratchboard drawing as there are now more darks and lights and less of the same shade of grey.



Keep in mind that you can add your own background as a graphic design element. I added the dark arch as a background in order to "pop out" the whites and lighter tones; I'm a big fan of negative space (a concept I'll discuss in class). These backgrounds are time consuming to create, but they are very effective – and a good way to practice getting smooth, even tones & gradations!

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**Supplies:**

Many of the items can be purchased at Aaron Brothers, Michaels, University Art or other art supply stores\*\*. I also recommend the following on-line stores (they all have catalogs as well): [www.blickstudio.com](http://www.blickstudio.com) (you can click through the link on the home page of my web site), [www.jerrysartarama.com](http://www.jerrysartarama.com), [www.aswexpress.com](http://www.aswexpress.com), [www.artsuppliesonline.com](http://www.artsuppliesonline.com), [www.cheapjoes.com](http://www.cheapjoes.com)

\*\*Dawn's Hallmark in Auburn (in the Raley's center on Lincoln Way at the Foresthill exit) will give you a discount on any regular priced class supplies that they carry. Take this handout with you and tell them you're taking my class.

***Please bring the following materials:***

Your photo or drawing sized to fit a 5"x7" area – 2 copies, make sure one of them is on regular white copy paper (that can be a greyscale copy – you will trace over it to transfer your image to the scratchboard).

2 copies of another photo/drawing sized to 4" x 4".

Inexpensive brushes - watercolor rounds in sizes #2 & #4 – you will be using these to apply ink, so don't buy anything expensive!

India Ink (Koh-i-noor brand #3085 Ultradraw or Higgins Black Magic)

Pencil (2H or F)

Hunt #100 pen nib (or similar) & holder

X-acto knife with #16 blades

OPTIONAL:     Technical pen (I use Koh-i-noor Rapidograph with nib sizes 0, 00 & 000)  
                  Disposable pen with archival black ink

***These items will be supplied:***

Transfer paper

2 pieces of scratchboard, 5"x 7" & 4" x 4"

We'll be using Ampersand Claybord (formerly called Ampersand Claybord Smooth) – it's white and comes pre-cut in various square and rectangular sizes and can be found at most on-line catalogs. Cheap Joe's seems to have the best prices.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail!  
(916) 663-0322 or [ann@annran.com](mailto:ann@annran.com)

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