

# Masterclass with Taqwa Al Naqbi in Papermaking

Make your own handmade paper



# Materials you will need

- Several sheets of fabric
- Heavy boards
- Fibre of your choice e.g. abaca sheets or cotton sheets
- Alternatively, you can use any recyclable materials such as cardboard, newspaper, etc.
- Clamps
- Bucket
- Strainer
- Sponge
- Tray filled with water
- Paper beater with a water bath (or a food blender)
- Brewed tea in a spray bottle
- Papermaking moulds (Screen and Deckle)
- Scissors
- Thick and thin thread
- Marker

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# Steps to follow

## 1. PREPARE THE PAPER MOULDS:

- Draw the shape you would like to add onto your paper on the screen with a marker or pencil
- Create a watermark by making stitches on the mesh of the screen
- Use the thin thread to bind the thicker one to the screen

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## 2. MAKE YOUR PAPER

- You will need a medium to create the pulp that makes up your paper; you can use any fibre sheet or recyclable material of your choice
- Fill up your beater or food blender with water;  
**a)** For the beater, fill it till half of the water bath is filled  
**b)** For the food blender, you will need to prepare a 1:2 ratio of fibre to water
- Tear up your fibre sheets and soak them in water, then run the beater or blender until you have a fine pulp
- Pour your prepared pulp into a deep tray filled with water
- Use the mould with the watermark to scoop out an even layer of pulp and strain the water
- Lay a piece of fabric on top of one of the heavy boards

- Carefully transfer the pulp sheet you created onto a sheet of fabric and cover it up with another cloth
- Repeat the process by scooping out the pulp from the water tray with your mould then laying it on the fabric and covering it up to create multiple sheets of paper
- Press all of the sheets you created with two heavy boards using clamps; make sure to have a piece of cloth in between each sheet
- Leave the papers to set for 5 to 10 minutes
- Remove the clamps and the boards and very gently peel the paper sheets off from the cloth, which will result in a set of wet papers
- Make sure that the papers are laying flat for a smooth surface to write or draw on

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### 3. AGEING THE PAPER

- To give your paper an antique feel, prepare tea in different densities and pour in a spray bottle
- Spray the tea on the edge of the wet papers and layer it to get darker edges
- Leave the papers to dry completely which should take around a full day

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## Glossary

**Papermaking Moulds:** essential equipment in papermaking; two wooden frames that are referred to as a screen and deckle

**Screen/Mould:** a wooden frame with water-resistant mesh

**Deckle:** a wooden frame that fits over the screen and forms the edge of the paper

**Paper Pulp:** raw materials that contain natural or synthetic fibres for manufacturing paper

**Watermark:** a design made visible when paper is held up to a light source