

Monoprints of a Different Style

Materials:

Prang Watercolor or
Washable Marker
(any style nib)
Wonderfoam
Print Paper
Blotters

Grade Level: pre-K through 12th

Technique holds regardless of the sophistication of drawing and design skills applied. Through the use of stamps it works even with the most young of hand skills – on up through the professional – if design elements are to be built and used..

Standard: Pre-K be able to repeat image

multiple times to form a field. Lower grades draw picture and print it. Middle grades – draw image and print it – adding repetitive image to complete. Upper level – create design element and extract a complete field image by repeating it and or combining with drawn and printed image.

Equipment:

Scissors
Spray Bottle

Optional:

Prang Media Mixer
Foam Brayer
Foam Stamps
Foam Glue

Project Time: One class period.

Vocabulary: printmaking, indirect color, damp, transparent, multiple. Field design, design element. Reverse.

Introduction: printmaking is one of the basic disciplines of art. It centers around the repeatability of an image whether a single element repeated to form a field image; the single complex image is repeated to make an edition or any combination thereof. Most printmaking is traditionally introduced with relief or block prints – usually involving cutting and a memorable incident of another student being wounded. In later years the monoprint has gained popularity for the indirect application of color and it is too frequently a lesser-controlled “squish” print. This technique will allow you to introduce the basics of printmaking and control without hurt, expensive equipment or lack of control of the image.

The Process: EVA or closed cell dense foam has become readily available. It is a most universal material. In this case we can apply color from waterbase or washable markers and transfer that color onto the paper or surface of our choice and repeat the process with reapplication of the still visible color. Pre cut design elements are available in the form of inexpensive foam stamps. Adhesives for this material are also readily available and it cuts easily with ordinary scissors for those desiring to make their own stamps. Further – whole drawings can be done on the surface and transferred on to damp paper; and the image will be controlled.

Tips and Techniques: Different depths of color will transfer depending on how deeply the marker is applied to the foam; even on a stamp a pattern can be repeated by drawing the stripes or dots (whatever) onto the surface of the foam. If conditions are too dry a spray of water will revive the print – and too much will add watercolor bleed style effects. Damp – not shiny wet – paper will yield the most consistent print. Wash stamps and “plates” with detergent and water to reclaim and recycle. The most fun is the combination of the repeated design element within the context of the drawn overall mono print. Colors will be transparent – which allows for color layering and secondary color building – for rather sophisticated surface color development.

Variations: Use the Penscore/Magic Stamp product line for heat sensitive foam that will let you make not only cut shapes and linear images – but textures for building – and rolling repeated designs. Color Tool Box foam shapers come in either a shape on a handle or a heat sensitive shape to adapt to the texture of your choice – also on a stylus handle.