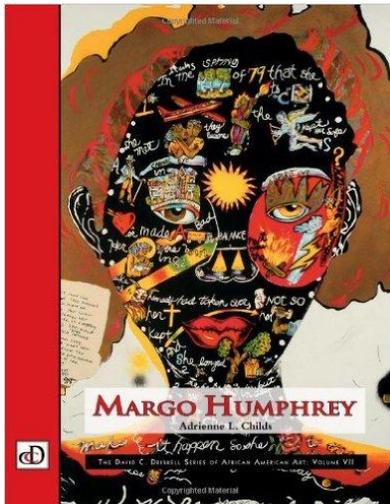


ART @ BPL

Word Prompt Printmaking



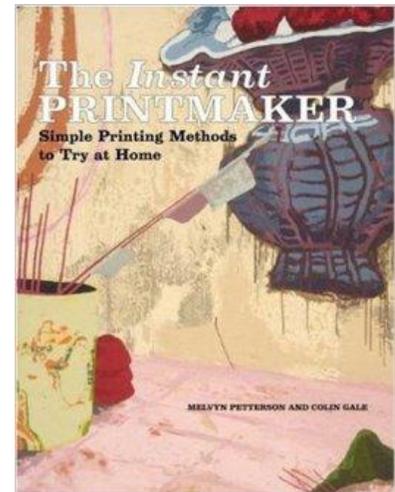
Printmaking is an art form that involves making an artwork, or “print,” that can be reproduced using the same process and template multiple times. This method of art making has existed for hundreds of years. It involves centuries of tradition, while being continually innovative and contemporary. We have techniques such as lithography and etching, which have been used by well-known artists like Albrecht Durer and M.C. Escher. We also have lino and woodcut prints made famous by Japanese printmakers such as Hokusai. Then there’s screen printing, a diverse printmaking method used in the art of Andy Warhol as well as in everyday t-shirt design.

Book Connection

The book *The Instant Printmaker* by Melvyn Petterson is a great way to learn about these different techniques through viewing artwork and exploring simple printmaking methods. Another interesting resource is *Margo Humphrey* by Adrienne L. Childs. Humphrey is a contemporary artist that uses printmaking as a way to explore and explain personal experiences with race, gender, spirituality, and relationships in a unique, narrative way. This book is a great way to learn more about this thought-provoking printmaker’s life and work.

Inspired Project

Our project inspiration this month involves a very simple and versatile printmaking process that explores printmaking in an easy, accessible way. Materials you’ll need are: foam board, pencils, brayers, water-soluble printmaking ink and printing paper. The foam board may also be substituted for foam plates or trays cut flat.



1. To begin, each student will need a sketch paper, foam piece, and pencil. I always recommend sketching out at least 3 different ideas before beginning on a final artwork. The challenge/prompt for this project will be words. Students will be given 3-5 words to choose from; the goal is to gain inspiration from one of them for their print. A great list of one word prompts can be found at: <http://artjournalist.com/2013/04/20/one-word-art-journal-prompts/>. As they choose a word, encourage them to sketch and brainstorm images, words, and ideas that relate to the word that they chose. Explain that in this process of printmaking, simple, interesting line drawings are the most successful. Also, if they choose to include words, they will need to be drawn backwards into their foam, since the print will be a mirror of their original image.
2. The next step will be transferring their ideas to the foam plate. This can be done by either tracing their completed sketch onto the foam, creating indentations in the foam as they trace or they can redraw the image directly into the foam using a pencil. It's important to note how deep the indentations are; the deeper, the better. A good way to know if the print will be successful is to print it. Students may always return to this step if they feel like they need to redraw, draw more, or make indentations deeper.
3. They are now ready to print. To do this part of the process they'll need: printing ink, brayers, and printing paper (3-4 sheets). Squeeze a quarter size of ink onto a flat, clean surface. Plexiglass or foil covered board works well for this. Roll the brayer in the ink to coat it and spread it on the surface. They shouldn't use much ink when printing, just enough to coat their foam plate. In between each roll of the brayer on the foam, they'll need to roll it in more ink. Once the foam is coated in ink, they should press it onto their paper; using their hand or a rolling pin to apply pressure. They then peel off the foam, examine the print, and repeat the steps; adjusting the foam image if needed. This process is fairly experimental; the best way to learn is to try it and correct mistakes.



Picture Credit: craftawl.com

For more information on this process visit: <http://craftawl.com/2008/02/10/styrofoam-relief-print/>.

Additional Library Resources

Print

Margo Humphrey by Adrienne L. Childs [YANF 769.92 CHI]

Andy Warhol: Prince of Pop by Jan Greenberg [YANF 92 Warhol Andy]

This is Warhol by Catherine Ingram [YANF 92 Warhol Andy]

An Eye For Art: Focusing on Great Artists and Their Work [YANF 708.153 NAT]

Printmaking for Beginners by Jane Stobart [ANF 760 STO]

The Instant Printmaker by Melvyn Petterson [ANF 760.28 PET]

E-Learning on our website's Student Portal

(7-8, 9-12) eLibrary Curriculum Edition (Proquest) –

- "graphic arts." *Compton's by Britannica, v 6.0*. 2009. *eLibrary*. Web. 29 Oct. 2015
- Suzuki, Sarah. "Print People: A Brief Taxonomy of Contemporary Printmaking." *Art Journal* 4(2011):7. *eLibrary*. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.
- Carpenter, Kim. "Albrecht Dürer: Germany's Renaissance Man." *German Life*. 01 Jun. 2008: 12. *eLibrary*. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.
- "7. Prints and Drawings." *The Art Lover's Almanac*. 2003. *eLibrary*. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.

(7-8, 9-12) Issues and Controversies -

- "Prints and Printmaking." *Encyclopedia. Issues & Controversies*. Infobase Learning, n.d. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.

(7-8, 9-12) World Book Advanced -

- Broun, Elizabeth. "Block printing." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.
- Broun, Elizabeth. "Screen printing." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.
- Stasik, Andrew J. , Jr. "Lithography." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.
- Rorex, Robert A. "Japanese print." *World Book Advanced*. World Book, 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2015.