

Printmaking 101 for Art Teachers

The Basics

In this section, you'll find practical resources to get your basic printmaking knowledge and teaching methods on track for immediate use in your art room.

An Easy Way to Teach Your Students About Positive and Negative Space



There are some concepts we teach in the art room that seem trickier than others. The first example that comes to mind is perspective. The second is positive and negative space. Something about seeing the “space around an object” can be very challenging for students to grasp. As students move through the different stages of drawing development, they begin to perceive things in new ways. As their sense of perception shifts, so does their ability to work with that new perception in the art room. [Continue reading...](#)

Use Simple Materials to Make a Print with Tempera Paint

There are so many methods you can use with tempera paint. Today I'd like to talk to you about my favorite tempera paint technique: using a cardboard collagraph and tempera paint to make a print. If you're familiar with traditional printmaking techniques, you know that it can be an expensive and time consuming process requiring special tools and materials. Depending on your budget, traditional printmaking projects maybe out of the question. Using tempera paint for printmaking is inexpensive. Many of the materials you need can be found in your classroom. It doesn't get much better than that! [Continue reading...](#)



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Scaffolding a Killer Printmaking Curriculum with Zach Stoller



Printmaking is fun! Watch Zach as he presents an elementary printmaking curriculum for grades one through five. Each project is based on what students have learned during printmaking lessons from previous years. [Watch the video here...](#)

The Basics of the Reduction Printmaking Process

Are you excited to try printmaking with your students but aren't quite sure where to start? Well, let me recommend reduction prints! A reduction print is made when an artist creates a multi-colored, layered print using a single print block. The block could be foam, linoleum or even wood. The artist repeats the process of carving and printing over and over until the final look is achieved. Using the reduction process takes the final piece to a whole new level with depth, pattern and color. [Continue reading...](#)



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IFPDA Glossary of Printmaking Terms



A clear and thorough glossary of printmaking terms, profusely illustrated with works of art, courtesy the International Fine Print Dealers Association (IFPDA.)

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Advanced Techniques

Feel like you already have a good understanding of the basics? This section will dive deeper into aspects of printmaking that require a little more experience.

Four Unconventional Printmaking Methods You Must Try!

Printmaking is such an accessible art technique. You don't need a lot of fancy supplies or a big budget to get kids excited about pulling prints. It can be so fun and satisfying to engage kids through unconventional materials that you might already have in your classroom, or even in your kitchen! Here are four offbeat printmaking materials that can turn your classroom into a wacky, world-class print studio. [Continue reading...](#)



Screen Printing 101 for the Art Room



After researching various methods, using Drawing Fluid and Screen Filler is a simple process to create some great screen prints and is very student friendly. Students in upper elementary could even handle this project, and of course, high schoolers would do great as well. [Continue reading...](#)

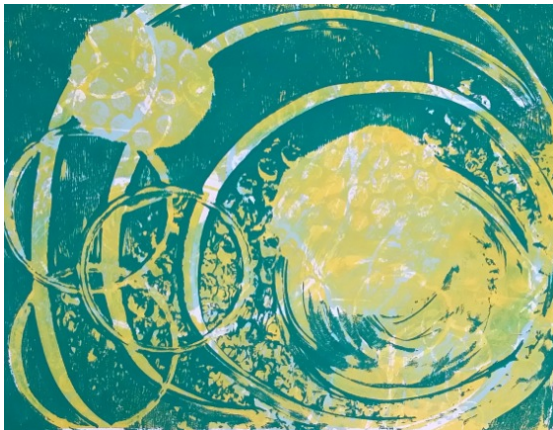
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Teach Your Students to Make Collagraph Prints

If you're unfamiliar, collagraph is a term coined by artist and educator Glen Alps in the 1950s. He didn't invent the process, but he most certainly helped develop it and gave the process its name. Essentially, a print is created from a collection of textures that have been collaged onto a rigid surface. If you're interested in creating a collagraph plate with your students, then read on for simple step-by-step instructions. [Continue reading...](#)



4 Fun Gelli Arts Techniques from the AOE Team



Gelli printing plates are a huge hit with students and teachers! Multiple prints can be created using various materials and acrylic paint. Materials include cut paper, string, shells, rubber pattern rollers, saran wrap, bubble wrap, and more. [Continue reading...](#)

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'You Made a Print with What?!' - Pushing Printmaking to the Next Level

Printmaking always interests our students, but too often it doesn't go anywhere beyond simple linoleum block prints at the HS/MS level. Tim will demonstrate printmaking techniques from his classroom and share some of his processes, lessons, and ideas that will expand the scope of printmaking possibilities in your classroom. [Watch the video here...](#)



Become Inspired - Printmaking Techniques Galore!



Take a moment and have some fun scrolling through the never-ending list of "Printmaking Techniques" boards found on Pinterest. You're sure to be inspired as well as find some great how-to's, videos, lesson plans, and more!

Printmaking 101 for Art Teachers

Organization & Management

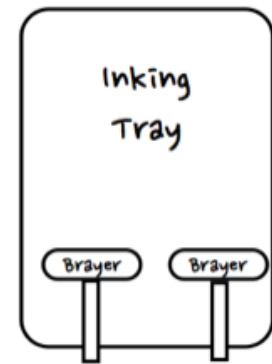
The most daunting part of teaching about printmaking can be the management of the media and supplies. The section will go through helpful suggestions to keep your sanity in check!

5 Secrets for Managing the Mess of Printmaking

Are you interested in printmaking but fearful of the mess? Does the thought of managing students as they carve and ink and print stop you dead in your tracks? If so, here are 5 secrets that will turn printmaking into your favorite art room medium!

1. Plan Ahead

You need to really think through your print-making process. This means that way in advance you should think about the subject matter, prep the supplies, organize the tools, and design a solid clean-up strategy. I suggest “chunking” the lesson into manageable steps. For example, my 2nd grade students create a bug triptych print as a part of their insect unit. Continue reading...



5 Smart Ways to Stretch Your Printmaking Budget



Printmaking can be intimidating for many reasons, one of which is the perceived high cost of materials. Ink? Brayers? Special Paper? Doesn't that get expensive!? Well, today I'm here to bring you some relief. See what I did there?

Don't get me wrong, if you have the budget for it, there are some awesome printmaking supplies out there. However, we know that art teachers are having to do more and more with less and less every year. Here are 5 ways to stretch your printmaking budget.

1. Invest in a few high quality materials each year

Instead of spending money on a cheap class set of something, say brayers, first invest in just two or three high quality brayers. Each year, add a few more. Continue reading...

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Essential Safety Tips for Printmaking in the Art Room

Many teachers get cold feet when thinking about doing advanced printmaking in the art room, simply because of the safety issues that can arise. We put our heads together and have come up with your essential list to keep safety in the art room at the forefront, without spoiling the fun of printmaking. [Continue reading...](#)



Non Toxic Paint and Print Resource

Nontoxic Paint + Print Resource is a web site that serves as a research resource and guide for painters, printmakers and educators. In addition to discussing nontoxic printmaking techniques, with sections including woodcut, collagraph, Akua Inks, Solarplate and Aquatint Screens, there are lists of nontoxic workshops and printmaking resources. This is a great resource for anyone interested in a nontoxic studio or classroom.



Art in Print



Art in Print was founded in 2011 to provide a venue for critical and scholarly writing about artist's prints, both historical and contemporary, and to provide a central resource for print information, news, and events.

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How to Make Printmaking Easy for Even Your Most Rambunctious Class



After some trial and error, I developed a printmaking process that is efficient and engaging. It keeps students busy printing without a lot of wait time, which really cuts down on behavior issues. Best of all, it really is easy enough for my second graders and also works well with my most rambunctious older students. Continue reading...

A Simple and Streamlined Printmaking Shortcut

When purchasing printing blocks, it is possible to order sheets as big as 12" x 18" or even larger. However, it would not be economical to hand every student a linocut sheet this big. It also wouldn't be practical to order sheets this large and then to cut them down to size. Many art teachers turn to the sensible alternative and order the 4" x 6" sheets for all their students.

4" x 6" sheets are a reasonable size for those just learning to print, but more advanced students might relish the challenge of working on a larger print. If you only have the small, precut linocut blocks, one solution is to use four printing blocks as one. Continue reading...



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Printmaking Lesson Plan Ideas



Radial Printmaking

Teacher description of lesson: *My students always love printmaking, but radial printmaking is extra special. Students create a simple image on their printmaking block and as they print, their radial design magically appears. This lesson has proven successful for every level of student. I have my students use Safety-Kut® from Nasco so we can use both sides, but a variety of materials (even styrofoam!) could work here. Give it a try! You won't be disappointed!*



Architectural Reflection Prints

Teacher description of lesson: This is an engaging project when you are looking for a collaborative work with which all students can feel successful. These look great displayed together as a continuous cityscape and can also make a great “Can you find the Eiffel Tower? The Burj Khalifa? Hagia Sophia?” interactive bulletin board display. This article about inspiring architectural marvels and this article about watercolor techniques are two great resources to use during this project.



Panoramic Prints

Teacher description of lesson: *Too many times, we limit our students when we do printmaking. It seems like we never go beyond a 6" x 9" linoleum block, and I rarely see any creative ideas. I decided one year that it was time to challenge my students with printmaking—we needed to go huge. I got out the roll of linoleum, and started cutting 3-foot sections on which my students could work. They rose to the challenge, we got some great prints, and I've been doing the project ever since.*

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Quilt Prints

Teacher description of lesson: *There's no doubt about it, students love printmaking. They also love abstract art and design. What could be better than combining the two into a beautiful quilt- inspired printmaking lesson? While you're at it, you can even sneak in a little history by discussing how quilts played an important role in the Underground Railroad. I usually allow at least four days for this exciting, challenging project.*



Fantasy Creature Prints

Teacher description of lesson: *My middle school students are constantly talking about playing video games. It seems to be the topic of conversation in my classroom. I created this lesson to incorporate their passion for playing video games with printmaking. Students design their own fantasy creature using yarn on cardboard. They print using tempera paint. Then they add color to their prints with watercolor paint. Finally they add lines and pattern with oil pastels. These fantasy creatures are the talk of the school!*



Building Blue "Prints"

Teacher description of lesson: *It is never too early to introduce students to career paths in the creative economy. Students are always amazed to hear that their job can be making art when they grow up. This lesson combines the art career concept with drawing and printmaking. Teaching older students? Extend this lesson by including a text or measurement element. Try having students create an elevation and a floorplan. This is a great lesson that can reach students of all levels in your classroom and give you room to exercise your own creativity!*

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Monochromatic Pumpkin Print

Teacher description of lesson: *Many others out in the blogoverse have done something with these pumpkin prints. As I began to think of a lesson that I could use with 4th grade and monochromatic colors, I was very bored with some of the shape/pattern designs I had seen in the past. I also know that printmaking is hard to find time for in our tight curriculum, so I decided to pair the pumpkin prints with monochromatic green leaves!! Students mixed to make the tints and shades. The key to making the pumpkins have value is to roll both yellow and orange ink on the tray and spread half and half. They look even better in person!*

Even More Great Printmaking Lesson Plan Ideas!

Art Teachers love Pinterest, and rightfully so! It's a fantastic resource and tool for discovering new ideas, organizing your plans, and sharing your successes! Browsing through this lengthy list of Printmaking Lesson boards will surely inspire some new ways to introduce printmaking to your students.

