

PRINTMAKING — CARDBOARD PRINTS

ART TECHNIQUE

Printmaking—cardboard prints

AGE GROUP

6 to 13 years of age

MATERIALS

- Cardboard — (straw board) A4 size approximately 2mm thick. Allow one piece per student to use as a block
- 1–3 pieces of easy-to-cut cardboard, (cereal boxes, recycled manila folders are ideal) from which to cut out shapes to create the collage
- 1 pair of scissors per student
- Plastic containers for glue. Allow 2 containers per group of 6 students
- 1 litre of PVA glue. Pour approximately 100ml into each plastic container.
- 1 No. 6 hog hair paint brush per student—used for glue application
- 8 foam trays (e.g. the ones used for fish and chips or any smooth tray) to roll up paint
- 4 foam rollers 85mm wide
- 2 litres of black (or any other dark colour) Chroma 2 student paint
- Paper — A3 size white cartridge — 3 or 4 pieces per student to print on
- Newspaper to cover the tables in the printing area
- Masking tape to tape newspaper or plastic sheets on tables
- String and clothes pegs to hang prints on to dry — a clothes drying rack is an alternative
- A bucket of water and rags for cleaning up

This project has been design to suit normal classroom conditions and illustrates how the classroom can be adapted to create working space required.

For very young students printmaking is a source of fascination and challenge. Opposite to drawing and painting, printmaking is an indirect process. To make a print, something has to be done to one surface; the block, in order to produce an effect on another surface; the paper.

Cutting and gluing card to form a block, rolling the ink and transferring the image onto the paper becomes a ‘kind of magic’ that students love. If young students have had enough experience in cutting paper they will be able to produce a card print.

OBJECTIVES

- provide students with practical experience in printmaking
- give students an understanding of the creative process involved in printmaking
- collaborate with teachers to increase their understanding of art practice.

SOURCING MATERIALS

Materials for card printing in the class room are normally easy to find. A list of recyclable materials including cardboard, cereal boxes, old manila folders, plastic containers and newspaper should be given to students to bring from home. Papers can be of different colours and of varying quality; from white cartridge to brown and coloured.



Example of ‘the card block’ by art student 8 years of age



Example of ‘the print’, mirror image

ROOM SET UP

The first task that the teacher will be confronted with will be establishing an appropriate work area. The printmaking arrangement of the classroom consists of four separate areas:

PREPARATION AREA – for constructing the block – cutting and gluing by the students at their desks, arranged in groups of four.

INKING AREA – for inking the block – a table covered with newspaper and set up with four sets of foam trays. Each set of trays is comprised of two trays—one tray into which the paint is placed to roll up and the second tray into which the block is placed while the paint is rolled onto it.



1. Room arrangement



2. Drawing large shapes onto card



3. Cutting the drawn shape



4. Glueing the cut out shape



5. Block sitting in tray ready for the paint to be applied

PRINTING AREA – a clean, dry table where the A3 cartridge paper is placed and printed on with the paint coated block facing up.

DRYING AREA – an area where clothesline or string can be strung and the prints hung secured with clothes pegs for drying.

TECHNIQUE

Discuss with your students themes and ideas suitable for card printing. Explain and demonstrate techniques to make and then print the block.

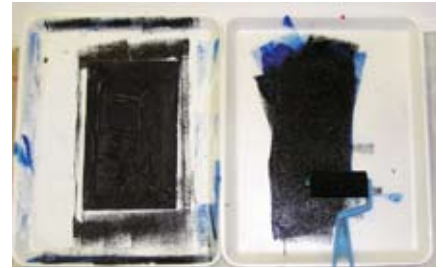
PREPARATION OF THE CARD BLOCK

- At the desks students draw big and simple shapes with chalk on manila folders, card or cereal boxes and then cut out the shapes (2 and 3)
- Glue shapes to the A4 card and allow the glue to dry over night (4)

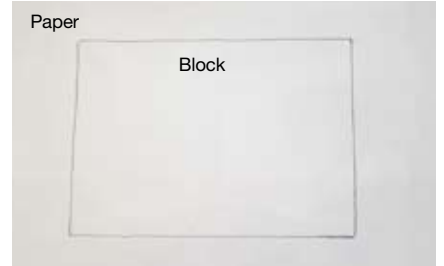
It is important to divide the students in to small groups of four, to print. One or two parent volunteers should be engaged to help organise the room and to supervise the students during the printing process.

PRINTING

- Spread some of the acrylic paint in the roll up tray and roll the paint out in the tray with a foam roller using up and down strokes (6)
- Place the block in the other tray and 'ink' it using the paint, by rolling the roller over it several times in different directions—make sure all edges and corners of the block are covered with paint (6)
- Take the block to the printing table and place it with the inked side facing up. Place a piece of A3 cartridge paper gently over the block and rub the back of the paper evenly with a flat hand, being careful not to move the paper (9)



6. Rolling up the paint ready to apply onto the block



7. Printing set up showing A3 sized paper with area for the block marked



8. A3 paper with centred block facing up



9. Gently rubbing the back of the paper whilst holding it in place with your free hand



10. Pulling the print

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Raquel Redmond has more than 20 years extensive experience in researching, developing and teaching art programs aimed at primary school students and also conducts in-service programs for primary school teachers. She directed the Visual Art activities, Children's Art exhibitions and Artists in Residence programs for the 'Out of the Box' children's festival from 1992 to 2000. Since 1998 Raquel has been working with students at Queensland University of Technology School of Early Childhood's art studio. She is an active practising visual artist exhibiting her lino and wood cuts throughout Australia.

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- Gently peel the paper off the block (10)
- Repeat steps of rolling out the paint and inking the block to produce more prints. Students should produce between three or four prints
- Take the print to the drying area and hang it up until completely dry.

OUTCOME

At the completion of the printmaking workshop, students would have learnt to simplify and enlarge shapes and to organise them within a space to create a design for printing.

- Students should be familiar with the basic technique of printmaking; making a block and transferring the image onto paper and to become familiar with the process of creating multiple images from the one block
- Students may use this printmaking experience to develop their evaluation skills as together they view and critique their finished art work
- Teachers will have an understanding of the different aspects involved in printmaking, for example, the allocation of time and resources, art materials and equipment, room arrangement and printing techniques. This experience will contribute to their visual art practice in the classroom environment.

ABOUT THE WORKS IN THE GALLERY

The works in the students gallery is an example of the different themes that can be used for creative inspiration. For example nature, the village, the park and the circus.

STUDENT

gallery



The village at night



A walk in the park



The circus