

Monoprints of a Different Style

Materials:

- * Prang watercolor or washable marker
- * Wonderfoam
- * Print paper
- * Blotters
- * Scissors
- * Spray bottle
- * Prang media mixer
- * Foam brayer
- * Foam stamps
- * Foam glue

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 there of. 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.

Process:

EVA or closed cell dense foam has become readily available. It is 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 in expensive 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 drawing 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 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.