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FUN FOR KIDS

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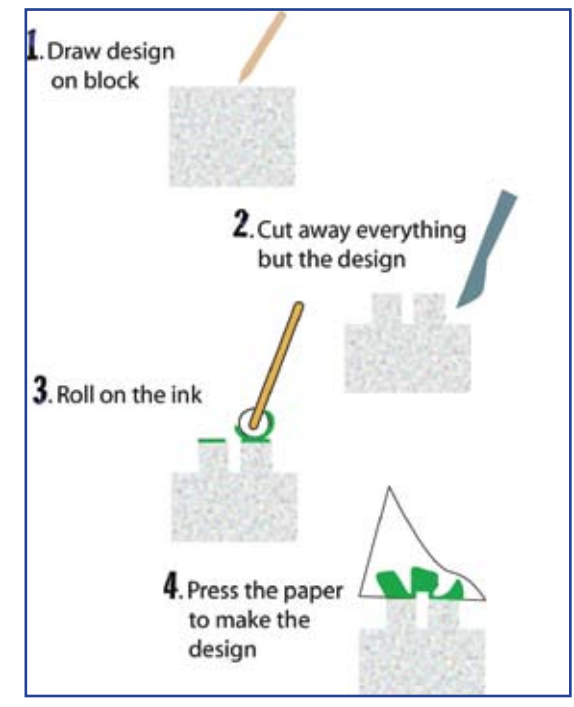
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This Month's Theme: Early Print-Making Techniques

How Early Fine Art Prints Are Made

There are many different ways to print an image using techniques developed from the 15th through the 19th centuries. Three of these are "Relief," "Intaglio," and "Lithography" and are used with printing blocks which can be made out of metal, stone, wood, linoleum, and even potatoes!

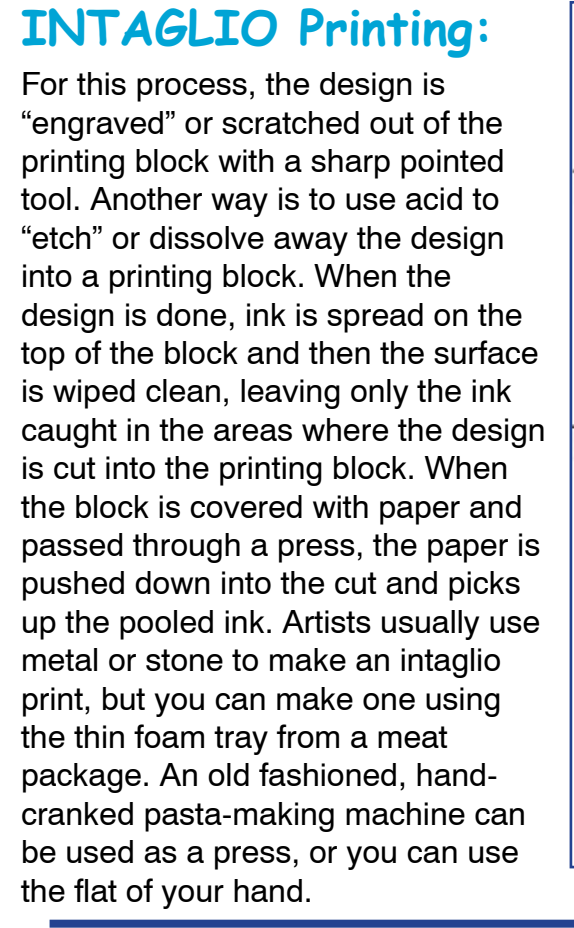


RELIEF Printing:
For this process, the areas on the printing block that are a part of the design are left alone and all the other areas are cut down to a much lower level. When the block is spread with ink, the part that has been cut away stays clean when passed through a press and only the inked design makes the picture. A potato stamp is a good example of this kind of printing!



Layla Stoutenborough relief printing.

Make your own! To make a relief print: Cut a large potato in half, let dry. Using a pen, draw your design on one of the cut surfaces. With help from an adult, use a sharp knife to cut away the areas of the potato that are not a part of your design, make sure you cut away at least a 1/4 of an inch. On a paper plate, squeeze out some poster paint and spread it into a thin layer. Take your relief stamp, and carefully dip it into your layer of ink, now press your inked stamp onto a piece of paper to print your design.



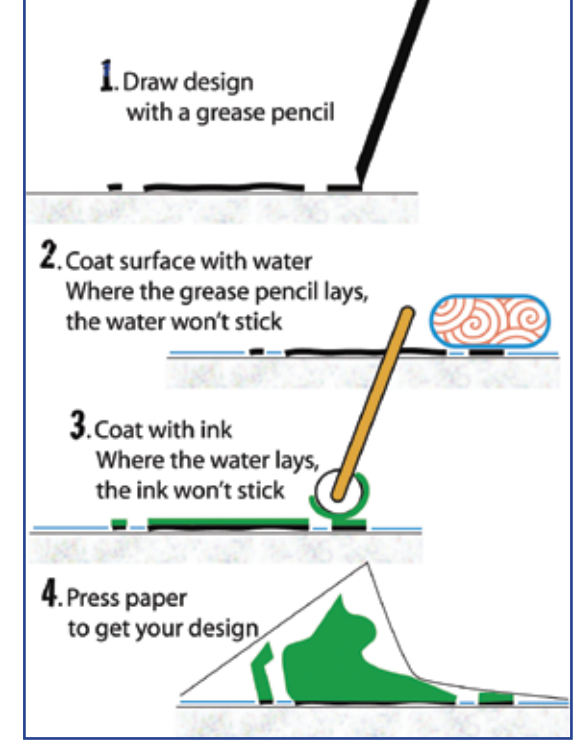
INTAGLIO Printing:
For this process, the design is "engraved" or scratched out of the printing block with a sharp pointed tool. Another way is to use acid to "etch" or dissolve away the design into a printing block. When the design is done, ink is spread on the top of the block and then the surface is wiped clean, leaving only the ink caught in the areas where the design is cut into the printing block. When the block is covered with paper and passed through a press, the paper is pushed down into the cut and picks up the pooled ink. Artists usually use metal or stone to make an intaglio print, but you can make one using the thin foam tray from a meat package. An old fashioned, hand-cranked pasta-making machine can be used as a press, or you can use the flat of your hand.



Layla Stoutenborough intaglio printing.

Make your own! To make an intaglio print: Thoroughly clean and dry the foam bottom of a meat package. Use a ruler to cut out a 4" square. Lightly draw your design onto the smooth side of the foam-printing block. When your design is ready, go over the lines with a ball point pen, making sure to press into the foam so there is a clear indentation or channel. Next, using a roller or flat

foam brush cover the block with poster paint then, using a damp cloth, carefully wipe the surface of the foam to remove the surface paint. Place a 4" square piece of paper over the surface. If you have a hand-cranked pasta-making machine, pass the foam and paper together through the press, otherwise – using the flat of your hand, firmly stroke across the paper.



LITHOGRAPHY Printing:
This process is based on the idea that oil and water don't mix together. Using a specially prepared limestone for the printing block, the design is drawn on the surface with a grease pencil. Next, the limestone is moistened with water. Where the water meets stone it sticks, but where it meets the grease pencil it pulls away. Next, oily ink is applied to the stone with a roller and because oil and water don't mix, the ink pulls away from the water on the stone and only sticks to the grease pencil drawing. The print is made by pressing a piece of paper against the stone.



Relief and intaglio samples.

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