

Monoprinting

This process is very simple yet is an extremely effective method of printmaking. As it becomes more familiar highly sophisticated and painterly prints can be created.

Monoprinting is a form of unique printmaking using a **repetitive motif**, and can only be made **once**, unlike most printmaking, where there are multiples or editions. Monoprints can make up a group of '**variable editions**'. The repeated motif gives all the monoprints a common element, however, each one is different.

Equipment/materials needed:

You will need to wear disposable gloves and an apron

Oil based ink/paint

Roller

Pallet knife for the ink

Thin card for stencils- no more than 180 gsm

Scissors, craft knife, circle cutter, cutting mat and safety ruler to make stencils

Plastic plate

Paper larger than your plate –cartridge preferably Vanguard 180 gsm

Newsprint

Tissue paper

The process:

1. Ink up your plate
2. Place the stencil (same size as your plate) on top of the plate
3. Cover the press bed with the tissue
4. Place the plate & stencil FACE UP on top of the tissue which protects the registration sheet
5. Put the cartridge on top of the plate & stencil and cover with newsprint which protects the press blankets
6. Lower the blankets over the top of the plate, stencil & paper
7. Pass through the press CAREFULLY and SLOWLY
8. Fold back the blankets and check your print. Place your print on the drying rack to dry.

Cleaning up:

Wear disposable gloves and an apron

1. Using your palette knife scrape up any ink off the table into a dirty rag and place in the metal soiled rags bin.
2. Use vegetable oil and a semi-dirty rag to clean off any excess ink from the table and your plate/s. Place this dirty rag into the soiled rags bin.

3. Use a clean rag and soap solution to wipe any oily residue from the table or your plates.
4. Roll your dirty roller onto some newspaper to remove the majority of ink. Use vegetable oil and soap solution to clean any ink off the roller and handle.

Finishing:

Your prints will take approximately two days to dry thoroughly (depending on the oil based inks you have used), longer if on non-absorbent paper.

Further Looking/Reading:

Kim Herringe's website for inspiration and explanations about a wide range of printing techniques and Gel Plate Monoprinting.

<https://kimherringe.com.au/journal/monoprint-monotype/>

Yami Mamamoto – monoprint artist

<https://www.mamiprints.com/>

Sam Gilliam – American Colourist & monoprint artist

<http://www.artnet.com/artists/sam-gilliam/>

Pat Cresson – monoprint artist

<https://www.patcresson.com/-painting-and-printmaking>

Sandra Pearce – has two informative books for sale on her website about monoprinting.

'Nature in Print - monoprinting using a gelatine plate' is an insight into the way that artist Sandra Pearce creates colourful monoprints at home, inspired by the natural world.

'The Magic of Monoprinting' will take you on a journey through Sandra's world of monoprinting using plants, stencils and found objects. With plenty of photos but also descriptions of her printmaking processes, you will be inspired to create.

<http://www.sandrapearce.com.au/>

Useful Resources:

Hawthorn oil based inks, rollers, etching presses

<https://hawthornprintmaker.com/>

For papers

<https://www.jacksonsart.com/>

Suggested Courses for Further Development:

Gelli Printing, Collagraph Printing, Introduction to Printmaking and Explore Printmaking courses at Leeds Print Workshop.