

Printmaking at Home

Lesson plan prepared by Margarita Fainshtein for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Suggested Grade/Age Levels

5+ with adult participation

Subject Areas

- Visual Arts

Introduction

This simple and fun printmaking activity can be performed at home and is inspired by a series of linocut prints by Nova Scotian artist, Cecil Day. This unique project offers endless possibilities, which you can discover the more you experiment. The activity will introduce basic understanding of linocut printmaking technique using materials you can find at home.

My prints evolve slowly with many proofings and often varied editions ...

The chance to “play” with the image is part of my pleasure... –Cecil Day



L: Cecil Day, *The Falls*, 2007.

Linocut on Somerset paper, 1/5

61.0 x 45.1 cm

R: Cecil Day, *The Sentinels*, 2007.

Linocut on Somerset paper, 1/5.

61.2 x 45.1 cm

Set Up:

- Large flat surface area preferably divided by two: inking area and clean area for printing materials nearby
- Access to a sink to wash your hands, paintbrushes and Styrofoam tray afterwards

Materials:

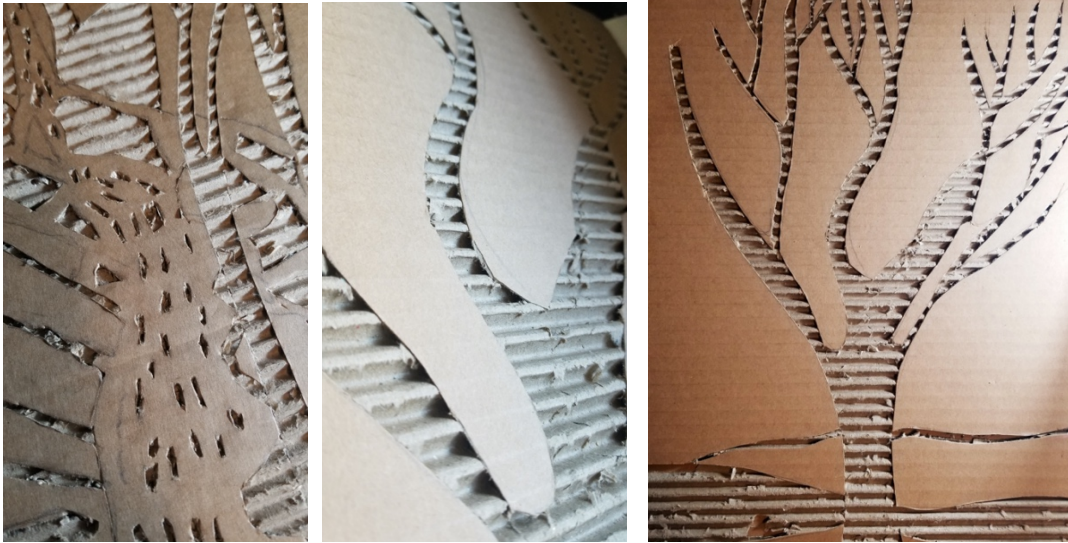
- Corrugated cardboard/ Styrofoam meat tray with the edges removed
- Pencils and erasers
- Craft/Utility knife (optional)
- Water based paint (preferably acrylic)
- Paint brushes (or non-absorbent roller/sponge brush)
- Paper (could be printer, coloured or construction paper).
- Optional: Other surfaces to print onto, such as fabric (cotton, silk, polyester, canvas)

Process:

1. Start by drawing your design on the cardboard/Styrofoam meat tray with the pencil.



2. If working on the foam – make sure to go over your lines by pressing the pencil into the foam and carving the lines deeper.
3. If working on cardboard: An adult will cut along your design with a knife and you can help take off the upper layer of a cardboard exposing an underlying texture.



4. Put enough paint to cover your cardboard/meat tray. The covered surface will be printed, while the carved lines will stay in the color of the surface you will be printing on.



5. If printing on the cardboard: Quickly (before the paint dries; otherwise the paper will stick to the cardboard) put the paper on top of the cardboard and use rounded movements with your fist to press it down. This is important to work fast and also try to press your paper in a way to allow paint spread evenly.

6. The first print is ready. Allow to print on a flat surface. You could try to get more prints from the same tray without re-inking it; however, each next copy will be more and more faded.



7. If working on meat tray: wash and dry your plate and you can reuse it later!

Suggestions:

- There are tons of options; you can experiment by printing on textures and surfaces



- You can also use different color paints or even add more details on your plate (Styrofoam tray or cardboard) to create a variety of similar images.



Resources:

- Cecil Day's Website – <http://cecilday.ca/cecilday/Welcome.html> – you are welcome to explore more examples of Cecil's work and get inspired
 - Art Gallery of Nova Scotia website – <https://artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/blog/tbt-conversation-cecil-day>
 - Robert A. Van de Peer, *Adventures in Printmaking, A Mariner's Voyage in Search of Safer Non-Toxic Intaglio Techniques*, self-published, 2013
 - Rosemary Firth, *Creative Printmaking: Printing at Home Without a Press*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017
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