

Woodcut Printmaking

Rachael Wells- Teens/Young Adults
HDAC Week 7: July 27th-31st AND
Week 9: Aug 10-14



Unit/Week Overview

Enduring Idea: By getting involved in a material that is naturally rigid, we are forced to work hard for the final product. Woodcut prints shed light on the importance of planning, and develops the young and developing artist's patience and appreciation for the process of making art.

Unit: Exploring the art of woodcut printmaking by being exposed to examples, techniques and the process from block to print.

Rationale: As teens develop into young adults, they encounter the developmental stage of wanting to explore new art processes. While linoleum is familiar to most fortunate students, wood blocks are rarely used with young adults.

We will look at the works of several woodcut artists and discuss how they created compelling images. We will also discuss the weights of line and what types of marks that students can make with their woodcutting tools. Students will be exposed to the process of making woodcuts to start and will practice a safety routine for cutting their wood blocks. By the end of the week, all students will have made at least one woodcut print that they are proud of!

Unit Objectives:

- Becoming more comfortable with the process of planning in printmaking.
- Practicing safety and mark making techniques while carving.

Monday- Lesson 1:

Introduction circle to start: Name and, "What are you most excited for this week?" Students will see examples of woodcut prints and the class will discuss how the artists worked with compositional techniques, value, and direction of marks to create a compelling image. Students will see a demo of carving and will be taught how to safely use their carving tools. Students will practice using their tools and explore the types of marks that they can make with different tools. They will create rubbings from their practice blocks and will see how an image they make on a block is reversed onto a print. Students will create a black and white letter design for a print.

Tuesday- Lesson 2:

Students will see a demo on using tracing paper to flip an image onto a woodblock. We will then trace our images onto our woodblocks and color the areas that we will leave uncut with black sharpie/ink. Students will be given a practice cutting block with black areas to leave uncut. They will practice their cutting control. If students feel ready, they can start working on their letter woodcut.

Wednesday- Lesson 3:

Finalizing letter blocks and starting a new image to convert to a block. Breaks from woodcutting with films about mark making, possible gallery tour discussion about mark making, or a trip outside for landscape sketches/photos. The second woodcut can be the favorite sketch or photo they make outside, converted into a grayscale image and simplified into carve-able shapes with a posterizing tool.

Thursday- Lesson 4:

Finishing letters and second woodcut. Printing Demo. Start printing letter blocks and refining letter blocks for final prints.

Friday- Lesson 5:

Finish printing, mount and hang for a short parent/guardian gallery walk. Students create an artist's statement reflecting on the process of what they made and hang the statement with their name next to their work.

Materials:

- Small/medium 1/2" or 1/4" wood blocks
- Wood carving chisels
- Brayers
- Printing ink
- Black india ink
- Corn oil
- Paper towels
- Printing paper heavy weight
- Plexi glass plates

