

Manipulated Monoprints at Home Workshop

By Caponi Art Park

Project Overview

Recommended for ages preK-10 years

Unlike other types of printmaking, a monoprint can only be printed once. Participants will create an abstract painting on plastic which will be printed onto paper. Taking the non-traditional route, participants will manipulate their monoprints using black pens. The final product will be unique to each participant, and is sure to impress their family and peers.

Supply List:

- Heavy-weight white or lightly colored paper. This could include anything from watercolor or marker paper to construction paper.
- Paint (You can use watercolor paints, or tempera or acrylic and water them down. You should have 3-5 different colors.)
- Brushes (Any kind will work)
- Water cups for rinsing.
- Black pen, felt tipped marker, or pencil.
- Hair dryer (Optional)
- A flat, hard, surface (This will become your printing plate. Normally we would use mylar, but that's not something people usually keep at home. You can use a large tile, an acrylic sheet, even a flat bottom of a foam plate will work. Just needs to be flat, hard, and approximately the same size as the paper you are using.)

Instructions:

- Lay out paints on a flat surface, like a plate or palette. If you have watercolor paints, great, if not, take your paints and add water until they are translucent. You can test them on a scrap piece of paper before starting the project.
- Using your paint brush, make broad, abstract strokes, using different colors onto your flat, hard surface, or printing plate. They will create their image on this plate. Encourage them to take their time, and you want to make sure there is still **negative space** in the image (see definition below).
- Once they have completed the painting portion of the project, they will take their piece of heavy-weight paper, and gently place it over their plate to transfer the

paint to the paper. Have them apply some pressure all over the paper, without moving it.

- Peel back the paper and lay flat. They should have an image that fills most of the paper, and contains negative space.
- If you have a hairdryer, go ahead and dry the paper on low. If not, let the paper sit for about 10 minutes, or until almost completely dry.
- Finally, when the paint is mostly dry, they should take their black writing utensil and “manipulate” the image by tracing the negative space in their image. This should create unique shapes and lines in their image. They can use different line weights and different size shapes.

Define **Negative Space**: In art, is the space around and between the subject(s) of an image. Negative space may be most evident when the space around a subject, not the subject itself, forms an interesting or artistically relevant shape.

In the images below, the black area in the image on the right is the negative space:



Example of finished project:

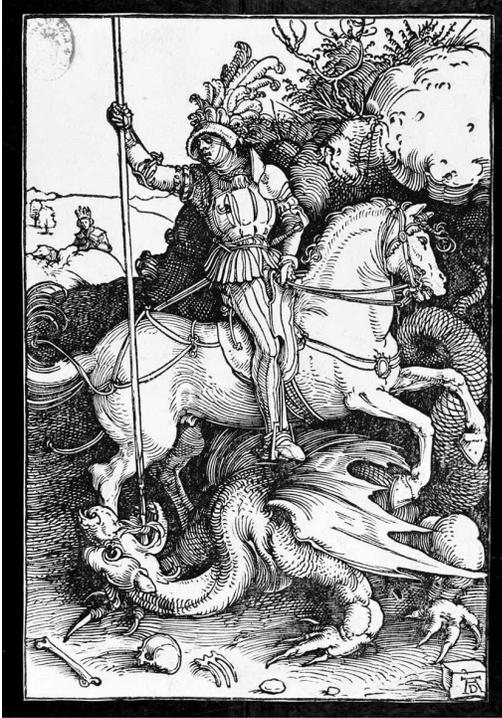


Discussion Questions:

- What factors are involved that make each print different, even though you are using the same plate?
- How did the “manipulation” part of this art project make your print a monoprint?
- What is negative space, in your own words?

Short Lesson for Manipulated Monoprints:

- Printmaking is making art by printing pictures, normally on paper.
- The advantage of printmaking is that a lot of the same picture can be printed at once. This is called a series.
- Each print is not a copy, but an original, because there are differences in the printing process between each print, unlike paintings or drawings.
- Pictures for prints can be cut into plates of metal, usually copper or zinc for engraving or etching; stone, used for lithography; blocks of wood for woodcuts, linoleum for linocuts and silk screens for screen-printing.
- Albrecht Durer was one of the first printmakers dating back to the Renaissance period, famous for his woodcut and etching techniques containing religious subject-matter.



- A monoprint is when an impression is printed from a reprintable block, such as an etched plate or woodblock, but in such a way that only one of its kind exists, for example by incorporating unique hand-colouring or collage.
- The beauty of monoprinting lies in its spontaneity and its allowance for combinations of printmaking, painting and drawing media.
- Otto Dix is an example of a famous 20th century artist that altered his prints during the printing process, by adding color.

