Printmaking Slam: Beyond the Singular
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Prints Link Philadelphia (PLP) founded in 2009, is an alliance of teaching artists from community arts organizations, art centers, museums, and schools who develop curriculum and projects to educate and promote printmaking to children and teens in the Philadelphia region. PLP is always interested in expanding through new members and partnering institutions. If you have any questions regarding PLP, please don’t hesitate to reach out via our e-mail address.
**Technique: Gelatin Printing**

Gelatin printing is a monoprinting technique using either a homemade or commercial printing plate made of a gelatin like material. These prints produce a wide range of subtle effects suitable for backgrounds but when used in combination with stencils or direct drawing techniques they can also create finished prints.

**Artists of Significance:** Linda Germain, Robert Delaunay

**Materials:**
- Homemade gelatin plate (recipe attached)
- Gelli printing plate
- Brayers and palettes
- Rubber tipped brushes
- Stamps, stencils, texture rollers
- Variety of masking materials such as nets, lace, leaves, string, torn or cut paper shapes, etc.
- Medium body acrylic paints (for use with Gelli plates)
- Water based block printing inks (for use with homemade gelatin plates and Gelli plates)

**Clean Up:** wet-wipes, hand sanitizer (Gelli plate), water and paper towels (homemade gelatin plates)

**References:**

**Websites:**
- [https://www.youtube.com/user/GelliArts](https://www.youtube.com/user/GelliArts)

**Videos:**
- First pull and the ghost:
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy0JG-TEWf8&list=TLa5tRrrLTsLNMeoXiyGq8eY1rSpBbly9c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy0JG-TEWf8&list=TLa5tRrrLTsLNMeoXiyGq8eY1rSpBbly9c)
- Gelatin monotype:
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSNgR239mwl&feature=c4-overview&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSNgR239mwl&feature=c4-overview&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg)
- Cutting stencils/multi color print:
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of4sFUStMP4&feature=c4-overview&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=of4sFUStMP4&feature=c4-overview&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg)
- Sample images:
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqq5cG3DJBCc&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqq5cG3DJBCc&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg)
  - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lj6T4UTV1c&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5lj6T4UTV1c&list=UUP72anTh8ZkibzISx2rLFeg)

**Books:**
- Making Monotypes Using a Gelatin Plate: Printmaking Without a Press, Nancy Marculewicz, 2002
Homemade Gelatin Plate Recipe (approx. 2, 10”x15” plates)

How to make a plate video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZgBkBv8y5s

Supplies/Ingredients:
- 3 cups cold water
- 3 cups hot water
- 12 Tablespoons gelatin
- Nonstick or disposable cookie sheets
- Wooden spoon
- Newspaper

Directions:
1. Pour cold water into a large bowl and sprinkle gelatin over it. Let it stand a few minutes until it has expanded and looks spongy.
2. Slowly pour in the hot water, stirring very gently until the gelatin is dissolved.
3. Using torn pieces of newspaper or a large metal spoon, scoop out as much foam as possible.
4. Slowly pour the gelatin into the cookie sheet.
5. Level the sheet with folded pieces of paper.
6. Skim off the bubbles with the torn newspaper.
7. Let the gelatin plate sit undisturbed until set, then cover with plastic wrap and store in the fridge or freezer.

Notes:
- Before printing gently remove any excess moisture with paper towels.
- Clean the plate with water dampened paper towels or baby wipes.
- These plates will last 3-4 days in the fridge and longer in the freezer.
**Technique: Painterly Silk Screen**

While the earliest forms of Screen Printing (aka Serigraphy* or Silkscreen) have been in place for hundreds of years, its use as a fine art print form didn’t occur until the 1950’s and 60’s. Originally designed for commercial purposes, it has evolved from a simple process of pushing ink through a stencil mounted to a screen, to more elaborate and complex photomechanical process. Screen-printing can produce multiple prints fairly quickly and the process is well suited for hardedge graphic imagery, but as you’ll see, there are also other more painterly options.

*‘Serigraphy’ is a combination of the Latin word seri (silk) and the Greek word graphein -to write or draw.*

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**A. Ink.  B. Squeegee.  C. Image.  D. Stencil/Photo-emulsion.  E. Screen.  F. Printed image.**

**Artists of Significance:** Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and Roy Lichtenstein
Due to its everyday use in advertising and other aspects of mass production, screen-printing exploded as a fine art process during the Pop Period.

**Materials:** Written below is a basic list of materials involved in screen printing. These can be purchased at most art supply stores, but they can also be improvised with many materials found at home or in art rooms or studios. The best advice is to experiment and experiment more!

- Screen - variety of materials
- Frame - wood or metal
- Squeegee – soft rubber or plastic
- Stencil – can use freezer paper, stencil paper, oak tag
- Transparent Base - important for layering colors
- Screen ink - Permanent A crylic
- Miscellaneous materials - Mixing containers, Rubber spatulas, Acetate, Packing tape, Hinges
Clean-up: Heavy-duty scrub brushes, water hose, screen cleaner, simple green and greased lightening – both are found at home depot. To avoid irreparable damage, i.e. clogging the screen, permanent acrylic inks must be washed out of screens promptly. The use of a high-powered hose helps this considerably, but this can be accomplished with frequent washings immediately after use.

References:

Suppliers:
- Speedball [http://www.speedballart.com](http://www.speedballart.com)
- Dick Blick [http://www.dickblick.com](http://www.dickblick.com)
- Victory Factory [http://www.victoryfactory.com](http://www.victoryfactory.com)
- Holden’s Screen Supply [http://www.standardscreen.com](http://www.standardscreen.com)
- Renaissance graphics [https://www.printmaking-materials.com](https://www.printmaking-materials.com)

Images:
- [https://www.pinterest.com/pin/185632815864242520/](https://www.pinterest.com/pin/185632815864242520/)
- [http://www.cedarhilllonghouse.ca/blog/what-serigraph-printing](http://www.cedarhilllonghouse.ca/blog/what-serigraph-printing)

Videos on Process:
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3spzlJ7C-s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3spzlJ7C-s)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk7TuSPPmY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk7TuSPPmY)
**Technique: Trace Monotype**

Trace Monotype (also known as transfer drawing) is a direct-drawing printmaking technique. After inking a plate, paper is placed on top of the inky surface. Using a pen, stick or any other stylus, the image is drawn on the back of the paper. The pressure of the drawing tool picks up a line of ink on the paper as the pen bears down. When the paper is peeled off the plate, the lines appear on the paper. Usually a second print is pulled by printing the remaining ink on the plate. The second print yields a negative impression of the first print. Taken from the Akua Inks Website: [http://www.akuainks.com/trace-monotype](http://www.akuainks.com/trace-monotype)

![Single Color Trace Monotype & Second Printing (ghost print) by: Michael Gettings](image)

**Artists of Significance:** Paul Klee, Paul Gauguin, Degas, William Blake

**Materials:**

1. Plexiglass plates – (I use two, one for rolling up the ink and one for creating the print. You could use only one plexiglass plate and roll up the ink on a piece of paper. If putting the plexiglass through a printmaking press you need to bevel the edges of the plate to a 45 degree angle, prior to making your prints)
2. Inks – Akua Intaglio Inks (best ink to use for this technique), Optional Inks (water soluble speedball inks, oil based speedball inks)
3. Paper – Bfk Rives Lightweight Buff Paper, Rice Paper, Sulphite Drawing Paper 80lb, Arnhem 1618, BFK Rives 220gsm, Johannot Art Paper, Copy Paper, Newsprint paper. Each paper reacts differently to the ink, therefore it is important to experiment with different types of paper to see which one work best for you.
5. Tools for Mark-making – Pencil, Pen, Mechanical Pencil, your finger, sticks, clay tools, the back of a paint brush, Roylco paint scrapers, Princeton catalyst wedges, hot wheels cars, etc. (Get creative with these tools!)
6. Palette Knife for mixing ink
7. Barren, Spoon (wood or metal), Printmaking Press, Pin Press for printing the image
8. Tape
9. Paper Towels
Optional Materials:
1. Colored Pencils
2. Chalk Pastels
3. Watercolors
4. Any art materials that you would like to add to your trace monotype

Clean Up:
To clean Akua Inks: Mona Lisa Pink Soap, Liquid Dish Detergent, or Baby Wipes
Rollers & Brayers: Roll the excess ink off the brayer. Use a mixture of liquid dish soap and water with a lint-free rag and wipe the brayer until clean. Allow brayer to dry before using. The rubber may get tacky over time. To cure or prevent this tacky feeling, dust a light coat of corn starch or baby powder on the roller before storing.

References:

Websites:
http://www.belindadelpesco.com/?s=trace+monotype&submit=Search
http://www.monoprints.com/history.php
http://mgne.org/monotypedefined/
http://aa2a.biz/pg/photos/album/24081/trace-monotypes
http://tammyratcliffart.blogspot.com/2016/04/transfer-or-trace-monotype.html
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/klee/hd_klee.htm
http://monotypejournal.blogspot.com/

Videos:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSBkHBQt7rU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPNUWi0MPNY
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gF9Ixr48WeU (using akua intaglio inks and pastel resist method)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F88wA5EB858 (good registering technique)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO2G56hC5Fs (good tips for how to dampen paper)
Books:
Paul Gauguin Tahiti
Monotype: The History of an Artistic Technique
Monotype: Mediums and Methods for Painterly Printmaking

Suppliers:
Speedball http://www.speedballart.com
Dick Blick http://www.dickblick.com
Atlas Screen Supply http://www.atlasscreensupply.com
Renaissance graphics https://www.printmaking-materials.com
McClain’s Printmaking Supplies http://www.imcclains.com/
Artist and Craftsman Supply http://www.artistcraftsman.com/
Jerry’s Artarama http://www.jerrysartarama.com/
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff http://www.cheapjoes.com/
Rex Art Supplies http://www.rexart.com/
Mister Art http://www.misterart.com/
Discount Art Supplies https://www.discountart.com/store/index.html
Plaza Art Store http://www.plazaart.com/stores/philadelphia
The Resource Exchange http://www.theresourceexchange.org/
**Technique: Relief Printing**

**Differentiated and Economical Alternatives for Layered Printmaking**

**Relief Printing** is one of the four major divisions of printmaking in which the image is printed from the surface of a material and the nonprinting areas have been incised away. The incised areas will reveal the color of the paper. In this station, participants will explore a variety of economical ways to use Styrofoam, found objects and alternatives to printing from Styrofoam without ink. The following techniques will be explored:

- Direct Application of Ink (Using Brayers and Sponge Rollers)
- Styrofoam Relief Print Alternatives
- Stamp Printing
- Printing without Ink

**Artists of significance:** Jean Dubuffet, Eric Carle, Julie Dickerson Thompson

**Direct techniques on paper:**

- Crayon Rubbing over raised surfaces (purchased or found) can be used as a ground layer to color the printing paper before it is printed.

- Brayers/Sponge Rollers (flat/textured) rolled directly on the inking plate and then, directly onto a variety of papers. This technique can be accomplished in a single and multiple applications during the same class period or separate classes. These printed papers can be used as print surface or incorporated into a collage, books, etc.

- Stamp printing can be an immediate or delayed direct application. Textured plates and stamp printing with various objects can be used to create colorful texture as the ground for future printing. This first layer can be accomplished with found objects, cut Styrofoam, old sponges, etc.

**Single or Multi-layer Techniques with Styrofoam:**

- Differentiated Trace Monotypes on Styrofoam: Begin with a drawing on copy paper. Mix ink, extender and retarder in a puddle before rolling it out on a plate of Styrofoam, an acrylic sheet, or wax paper taped on a sheet of cardboard. Place the printmaking paper on top of the rolled ink. Using flat fingertip, smooth the printmaking paper by lightly pressing it out to the corners. Place the original drawing on top of the printmaking paper. Students can use a different colored pencil to trace over the lines of their original draft. When complete, pull both the drawing and the print off the plate.

- Direct drawing into a rectangular sheet of Styrofoam, ink it, and print it:

  **Traditional:** Draw directly into a rectangular sheet of Styrofoam. Color the Styrofoam drawing with watercolor markers (Crayola, etc.). Moisten the paper (at least 70 lb.) with a spritzer or sponge. Place the damp paper on top of plate and press the back lightly. Rub with fingertips until you notice the color coming through. Pull the print.

  **Alternatives:** Cut images out of the Styrofoam plates (use flat surface)
Differentiated and Economical Alternatives for Layered Printmaking (continued)

**Color:** Alternative techniques

- Black (or, dark) ink on top of light layers of flat or textured inked paper
- White inked images on top of dark colored textured inked paper

**Layer Papers:** Practical Applications

- Book Covers
- Collages (independent or group project)
- Silhouettes
- Original figures and boxes
- Borders and frames
- Paper Quilt Square

**Materials:**

- Brayers
- Textured Sponge Rollers
- Hard Rubber Texture Rollers
- Printing Plates: Styrofoam
- Incising tools: Pencils
- Scissors
- Unwrapped Crayons (rubbings)
- Found Objects: Old sponges, Cardboard
- Masking Tape
- 9x12” papers: Newspaper, Kraft, Copy, Construction... to high quality papers
- Speedball or other water-based block printing inks
- Speedball Printmasters Retarder and Extender

**Clean Up:** Soap and water, sponges and paper towels

**References:**

**Websites:**

- Inovart Printfoam for Block Printing - BLICK art materials

**Video Tutorials:**

- Printmaking with Styrofoam To Go Containers - YouTube
  ![5:30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TXuppRISWw)
- Gelli™ Printing with Styrofoam Plates - YouTube
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUlIfoZGZLY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUlIfoZGZLY)
  (This is an awesome video!)
Printmaking Slam: Beyond the Singular
Ideas for Styrofoam Printing