

Water-base Monotype/Monoprint

BASIC CONCEPTS:

A collage image can be made using acetate and water-soluble inks and then transferred onto damp printmaking paper putting it through a printing press or hand printing. The acetate serves as a plate and can be reused to create additional images however the original print is one of a kind and cannot be created in an addition. Inks may be left on plate to dry or printed wet for varying effects.

PROCESS:

1. Prepare your inks on a large palette/plexi. It is essential to use water-soluble inks. (Inks may be saved by covering with plastic and reactivated with an extender.)
2. Dampen your printing paper before you start. Spritz the back and front and place it in a plastic bag/damp pack. The paper can keep for up to two days in a cool location.(see “damp pack” handout for additional methods for wetting paper)
3. Create an image by applying inks to acetate with a brayer or brush. A plate may be created by layering shapes and colors or by simply drawing directly onto a single piece of acetate.
4. Let your plate dry to touch (if you want a textural effect, or print immediately for a wet effect).
5. Clean press bed or printing surface area.
6. Register your plate on the press bed.
7. Blot printing paper and register it onto the plate. Place two sheets of newsprint on top of printing paper.
8. Pull your print.
9. Clean press bed for next artist's use.
10. Put print in a safe place to dry.
11. Carefully take acetate shapes off each other and place in an area for re-use.

Additional Concepts:

- Do not clean brayer between inking for color mixing and layering.
- Do not clean plate between use for ghost imagery and layered effect.
- Use extender to make colors more transparent.
- Use magenta and cyan as your blue and red for maximum color mixing.
- Water-soluble crayons can be used alone or in addition to the inks.
- Speedball Block printing ink is recommended, as some water base inks are not water-soluble. Check quality and label before purchasing.
- Createx is not an effective medium for this process however it can be used as an extender for the Speedball inks.
- It is recommended to use a plastic or acetate designed for color transfer, but you can use cheap overhead sheets, but be aware that it may tear easily and not all colors will transfer off the surface. (green speedball will not transfer after it is left to dry).
- Use a layer of gum arabic on the plate surface to create a better transfer of colors. Gum arabic is a water loving material.
- Image can be drawn directly onto a plexi glass plate and printed onto wet paper after it is left to dry.

Xerox Monotype/Xerox Lithography/Xerography

BASIC CONCEPTS:

A photocopy can be made of a collage image, photograph, original artwork or other imagery and then transferred onto damp printmaking paper by running it through a printing press using a method similar to lithography. The photocopy serves as the plate and can be reused to create an edition or series however the fragile nature of photocopy paper leaves editions and scale limited.

(It is essential to use a photocopy machine and not a laser printer or ink-jet printer. The toner used in copy machines is the reactive material that makes this technique possible.)

PROCESS:

12. Create or select an image that has gradation, a mix of values.
13. Prepare your inks on a large palette/plexi mixing oil-based ink with light plate oil. You want the consistency to remain thick but soft.
14. Prepare borders/edges of plate/image. You can do this by cutting or tearing. You can also make a shape from your image. This becomes your plate. Register image on a template/plexi surface.
15. Dampen your printing paper before you start. Spritz the back and front and place it in a plastic bag/damp pack. The paper can keep for up to two days in a cool location.
16. Prepare your wet/wiping materials by mixing water with gum arabic in a disposable container. You'll want a container of water and a container of gum arabic/water mixture.
17. Get your sponge wet, dampen work surface, then sponge the back of your image/plate. Carefully turn image front side up and dampened the front. Careful, paper will stretch.
18. Using a dish sponge, apply a thin later of gum across the entire image, working from the center out.
19. Plate must always be wet before inking.
20. Working from the center out, apply a thin layer of ink, recharge brayer and set brayer aside.
10. Use sponge to gentle wipe plate with water and then gum arabic mixture.
11. Ink again, wipe down plate, and repeat process until a thin layer of ink is visible across the entire plate surface.
12. Transfer plate carefully onto a clean plexi surface/template.
13. Blot printing paper and register it onto the template. Place two sheets of newsprint on top of printing paper.
14. Pull your print.
15. Clean press bed for next artist's use.
16. Put print in a safe place to dry.
17. Plates can be re-inked with same or different color.

Additional Concepts:

- Print image on top of another.
- Print darker image on top of a lighter image.
- When making photocopies, remember to flip image orientation so image is printed forward.
- When making photocopies, play with the light and dark exposures of a single image. Don't move original and you'll get an exact register.
- Enlarge image to break down resolution/quality.