

Family Art from Home

Storytelling Prints

by Harley Kirschner

This project is inspired by a print in the Museum's collection from Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, a Salish member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, Montana, whose work is deep with storytelling. Calling Corrales home and being a graduate of the University of New Mexico, Quick-to-See Smith's images tell the story of contemporary life in New Mexico while incorporating historical and personal imagery.

What does it mean for you to live in New Mexico? Have you lived in other places? What symbols (animals, plants, people(s), buildings, geography, shapes) make up your story?



Jaune Quick to See Smith, *Cammass II*, 1980
lithograph
Albuquerque Museum,
gift of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Cronin

Supplies Needed

- 2 flat plastic plates. Any flat plastic surface that is larger than your brayer will work. Large Tupperware lids from takeout work well.
- 3 colors of printing ink (available at Artisans, Michael's or Dick Blick)
<https://www.dickblick.com/products/speedball-water-soluble-block-printing-inks/>
<https://www.michaels.com/speedball-block-printing-ink-1.25oz/D243286S.html>
- foam sheets (often in meat/ fish/produce packaging but also available at art and craft stores) Any thin flat smooth Styrofoam will work. I used 3 4"x6" sheets of Printfoam (link below)
<https://www.dickblick.com/items/inovart-printfoam-for-block-printing-pkg-of-100-4-x-6/>
- cardstock, construction paper or any heavyweight paper (color of your choice but should be different color than your ink)
- wooden spoon, popsicle stick or plastic spoon
- 2 brayers or 1 brayer and a second clean wooden spoon (if you do not have a brayer experiment with pallet knives, credit cards. Fake credit cards often come with junk mail and make great stand ins for applying ink to your printing plate Also wooden, plastic or metal utensils or instruments. Old measuring cups make great substitutes for applying the print to the paper.
- Dull pencil
- Optional: scissors



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How to do it

1. Using a dull pencil, draw three images that symbolize your story your foam sheets. Think about the symbolism in your drawings. How do they relate? The idea is to tell a story through images. Optional: use scissors to make your plates interesting shapes.

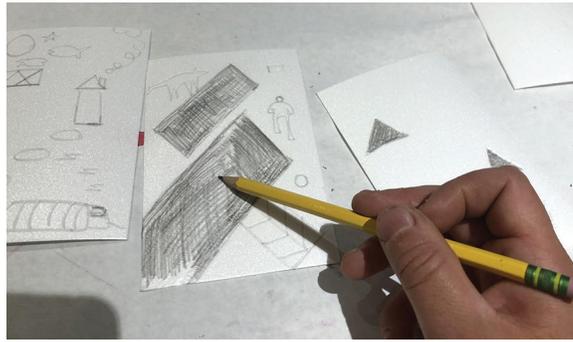
2. Apply ink to your plastic plate using a brayer, pallet knife or credit card. It should be a thin and even layer. Note: some printing inks are more opaque than others. If your ink is translucent apply it so it's still translucent. If it's opaque it should still just be a thin layer that you can almost see through. Apply a small amount using your spoon then drag it up to cover your plate (or an area the size of your printing plate)

3. Place your first foam sheet on top a second plastic plate. Roll your brayer through the ink you applied to your first plastic plate, then apply that ink to the foam sheet, using steady even pressure.

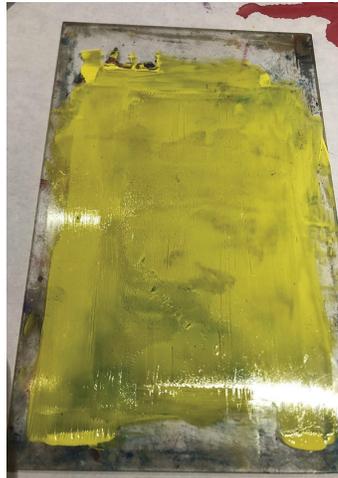
4. Turn foam sheet upside down onto the paper. Roll brayer over it or press credit card or other utensil over it in a dragging motion.

5. Lift up the foam sheet to reveal the print.

6. Repeat steps 2-4 with remaining 2 colors and images, rinsing tools in between colors. Print images so they overlap in some areas but also fill up your paper to make an interesting composition.



Step 1



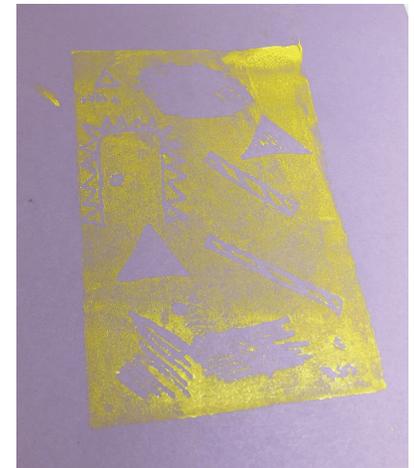
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Final