

Block Print: Cardboard Relief

by Kim Fjordbotten

Materials list

Recycled cereal or cracker boxes
Speedball Block Print Ink
Brayer
Stevenson acrylic medium
3/4" paintbrush flat
Pencil and scissors

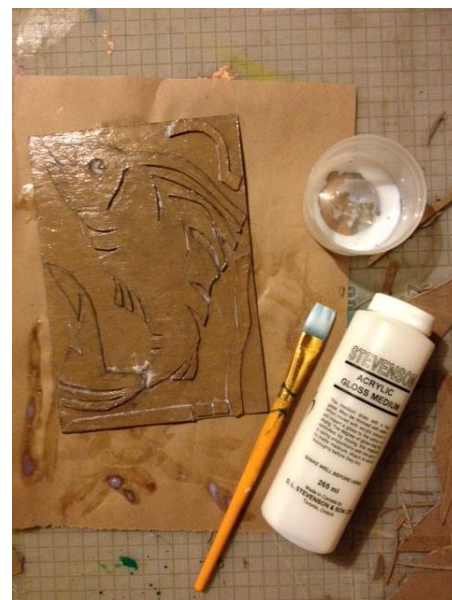


Goal

This is an economical preliminary project for future block printing. Students will experience how a roller travels over a surface in 'relief printing' only the raised areas will print.

Procedure: Create the Block

- Draw your design on cardboard to fit a 5"x8" rectangle.
- Use scissors to cut them out.
- Experiment with different arrangements.
- Use acrylic medium to glue them down onto piece of cardboard 5.5"x8.5".
- When dry, coat entire front with acrylic medium.
- Let it dry again. Then coat the entire back with acrylic medium.
- This will waterproof the cardboard and make the block washable and reusable



Procedure: Print the Block

- Coat the brayer with ink from the palette.
- Roll it over the block on stack of newspaper (or telephone book section)
- Inspect your block to make sure it is evenly coverage with ink.
- Now put the block onto the spot marked 'block' on the registration area.
- Place the paper to be printed carefully on top of the block. Use your hand to gently press the paper onto the surface of the block rubbing gently.
- When it is in place, take another clean brayer and roll over the back of the paper to help transfer the ink from block to the paper.
- When satisfied that all areas have been pressed, pull you paper off the block reveal your transferred print.
- Take advantage of this easy printing process to make several copies to exchange with classmates.

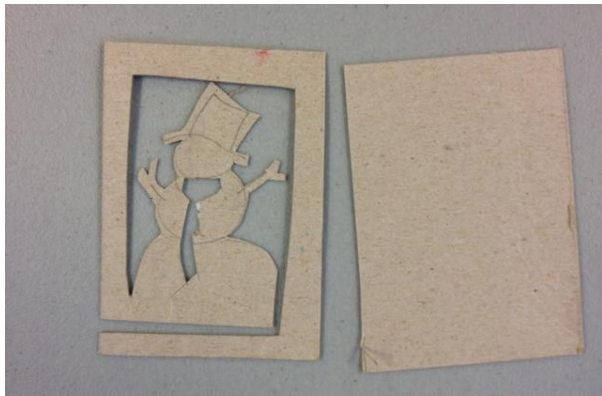


Block Print: Cardboard Relief

by Kim Fjordbotten



More Suggestions for Simple Cardboard Block Print Plates.



Block Print: Cardboard Relief

by Kim Fjordbotten



Preparation: The 1-2-3 Printing Station

Here is a simple printing station set up.

It keeps the process organized, controls the materials and makes cleanup super easy.

Palette Area

Tape a sheet of disposable palette paper to the table. This will be the palette area. Put a small blob of printing ink onto the pallet paper. Use the brayer to roll out the ink into a small square. The purpose is to coat the brayer with ink

Inking Area

Place the block on top of the telephone book or stack of recycled paper. Use the roller to coat the block. Roll the brayer carefully back-and-forth in one direction. Then go back and load up the roller on the inking palette. The turn your block and roll brayer back and forth in the other direction. If the papers under the plate become soiled simple flip over a page to reveal a new clean surface for the next student to place their block and roll ink.

Registration Area

Create a template to help students know exactly where to place their block and the paper. A sheet of paper is marked with the exact dimensions of the plate centered in the size of paper to be printed. A piece of glass or Plexiglas placed on top will protect the template so the surface can be quickly wiped clean as needed.