## **Linocut Relief Print**

## Printmaking Techniques #3

## What is a Relief Print?

A Relief Print is a general term for those printmaking techniques in which the printing surface is cut away so that the image alone appears raised on the surface.

Relief prints include **linoleum cut**, woodcut, letterpress, and rubber or metal stamping.

The raised areas of the printing surface are inked and printed, while the areas that have been cut away do not pick up the ink.

## What is a Linocut Printmaking?

Linocut printmaking is literally using a sharp tool specially designed for printmaking to carve out pieces of linoleum or "lino." The remaining raised areas are rolled with ink and create a super textured, graphic print.

Carving linoleum used to mean straining to carve your design out of tough grey linoleum blocks. Sharp tools and max pressure were needed making it a less than safe endeavor.

New surfaces mediums make this age old art so much more manageable and just as fun.

This simple project is a great place to start for those that don't have much experience with linocut printmaking. Start easy, learn the process, and build your skills!

There are two keys to the success of linoleum carving with kids. One is using easy carve linoleum. Two is picking an easy subject matter that has a little wiggle room.

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**Linoleum Block Printing:** Linocut, also known as lino print, lino printing or linoleum art, is a printmaking technique, a variant of woodcut in which a sheet of linoleum is used for a relief surface.



Video: Linocut Printmaking Process

# Linocut

### **Relief Prints**











### **Criteria for Linocut Print**

#### **Theme Choices:**

- Take a stance on a social justice topic of their choosing.
- Are influenced by their culture.
- Share a message with the community.

#### Size:

- Approximately 1"x2" (Envelope Seal Print)
- Approximately 2"x3" (Postcard Front)

#### Create a sketch for Envelope

• A simple image based on one of the 3 themes above theme

#### **Create a sketch for the Postcard Prints**

- A simple image based on one of the 3 themes above theme
- Use a minimum of "5" images/details

(I.e. 2 images and 3 details; 1 image and 4 details; 3 images and 2 details)

#### ... criteria continued

#### Postcard

- Front of the Postcard has 4 Prints using 4 different colors
- Label: Title & Signature
- Back of the Postcard has a message related to the Theme

#### Envelope

- Front of envelope as address and return address
- Back of envelope has practice stamp on envelope flap

#### Stamp

• Design a stamp based on your theme

P 0 Ε X Α S Т M C Ρ Α L R Ε D

#### Front of the Postcard Four Prints & Four Colors





Back of the Postcard Message related to the Theme

#### "Justice Delayed is Justice Denied." -William E. Gladstone

#### Front of the Envelope

Jen Baribeau 3200 Senter Rd San Jose CA 95111



Chief of Police Anthony Mata 201 W Mission Street San Jose CA 95110

#### **Back of the Envelope**







Video: Introduction to Relief Printing Steps:

- 1. Start by picking out a theme, this theme will be used for the images and writing that is required for this project
  - Social Justice
  - Culture
  - Community Message
- 2. Once you have chosen a theme you will design an 2"x3" image that matches the theme
- 3. Next you will design a 1"x2" detail, this can be an image or text
- 4. Starting with your 1"x2" design, transfer the image/text to a Lino-block
- 5. Use the wood guard and Lino-cutter (carving tool) carve out the negative space around your design
- 6. Repeat the process with your 2"x3" design









### **Additional Videos**





Video: Artist Demonstrating Picasso's Reduction Linocut Technique



Video: Introduction to Relief Printing

#### which is a very basic transfer of an image



Video: Linocut Inking for Printmaking