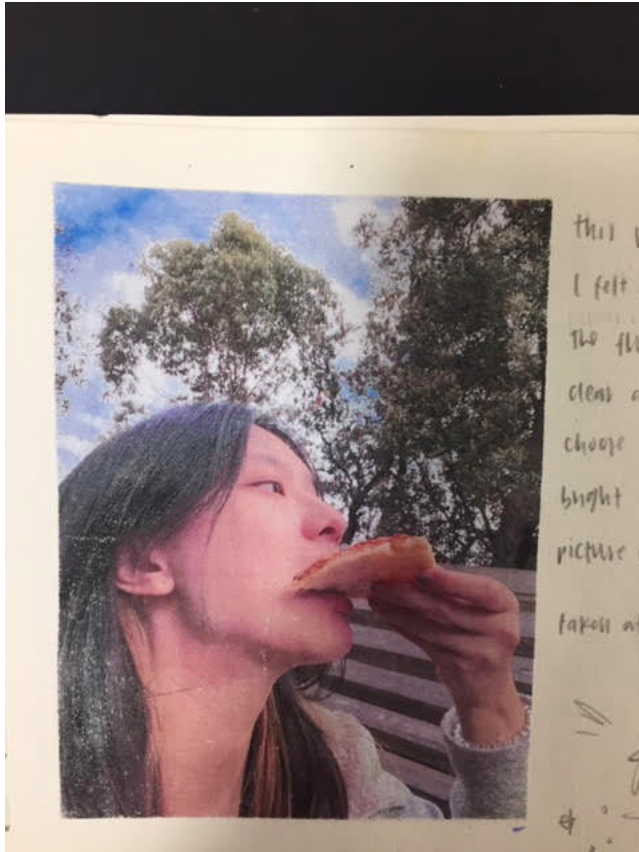


Please bear with me as I try to explain the reduction Lino printing in the simplest of ways. Generally I show my class examples of various print making techniques....and then they research an artist of their own choosing, analysing at least one work in detail and writing about the process used. This lays the foundation for understanding the basics of printing techniques and terminology. I also give them a handout with terminology relevant to print making.

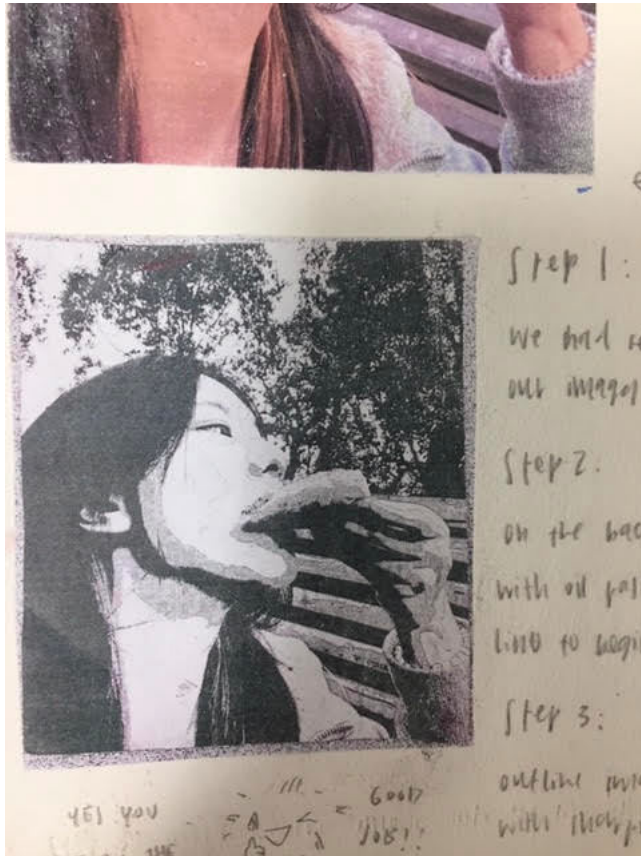
For the practical, we usually do a self portrait. You can do anything you like. I ask my students to bring a couple of good pics (digital files) with a good tonal variation.



(this was the starting pic.)

We choose the best one and I make the process of converting it into 4/5 colours really easy by using digital editing program such as photoshop.

Convert the image to grayscale and then use posterise option. You can select as many levels as you want. For beginners, go with 3.



This is how it looks after posterisation. You can clearly see 4 shades here-white, light grey, dark grey and black. Next step is to transfer the image on a piece of Lino. Cover the back of the pic with a dark colour crayon, put it crayon side down in Lino and then trace over all the details in the image. The crayon will leave a good impression on Lino. Once completed, you can go over the crayon impressions with a sharpie to make it permanent.

Now, the students will create various colour schemes as trials. The important thing to keep in mind is that white area in the image will always remain the lightest colour in all the prints so students can't choose to have white in one print and dark blue in the next. Though not each image needs to have white. The four colours they choose should have very clear light, mid and dark tones.

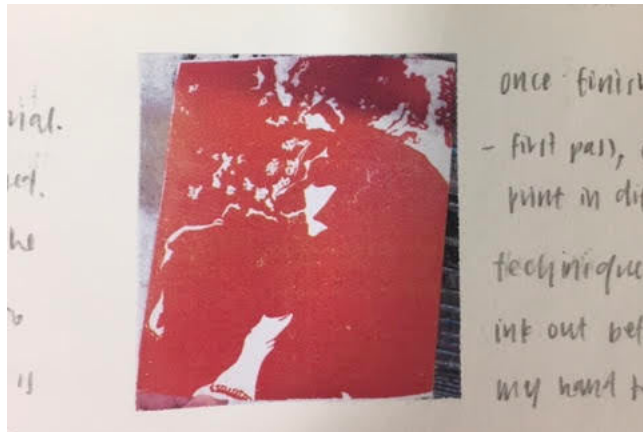


colour schemes to choose from.

We just use coloured pens to trial a dozen or so

Before starting to carve, students can mark the areas to be carved out in the first layer (the white part) as 1 to avoid any mistakes.

Once, the white is carved, students will create the second colour in the their colour schemes (assuming the first was white), and then print. For beginners, I let them cut the printing paper same as Lino, to avoid registration issues... as they advance, I teach them registration of prints later.



This is how it looked after the first layer was carved, please note that the student here actually reduced the white area in the face intentionally. We take multiple prints, all different colours.... once 5/6 prints are done... carve the next colour (light grey area), repeat the printing with next shade in the corresponding colour schemes....



This is after two colours were printed, though a different colour scheme in this one. Repeat with the dark grey area and printing the last colour. Note that, darkest area will never be carved....



Finished print and it's Lino. Also note the prints are a mirror image so if using words, will have to do them in reverse.

I have a student currently doing an image with words, will share with you if you like later.

A few tips, encourage students to use white as a first colour, this way they get good contrast and can use white if the paper and straight away start printing from second colour, as in the above example.

If white is not the first colour, then will have to print before starting to carve.

Use bench hooks if available while carving... really prevents hand cuts. But still I constantly remind my students to keep supporting hand behind the carving hand. They have a tendency of supporting from front and risking a sharp cut if the tool slips... nevertheless a few cuts will happen, keep a few bandages handy.

Well, I don't know how much of this makes sense... ask any questions if you have. Maybe watch a couple of YouTube's to get a clear picture of the process.

In the end we do label the prints as a series and compare with artists proof. Students document the whole process in their visual art diaries, if you look closely I took pics of the folio pages to include here.