



Trace Monotype: press-free printing

with Jennifer Ghormley



You'll Need

- Oil-based printmaking ink (Cranfield brand Caligo safe-wash relief ink)
- Speedball 3" SOFT rubber brayer
- Piece of clear Duralar, acetate, plexiglass or glass to roll out ink on
- Thin paper - sketch-weight, Rice paper, 'Eastern' papers, Kozo, Mulberry, newsprint
- Soap & water OR vegetable oil for clean up
- Paper towel or rag for clean up
- Mixed media for hand-coloring: Watercolor, colored pencils, gouache, ink, acrylic paint, etc.
- Step-By-Step video tutorial: www.think360arts.org



The Big Idea

Embrace this **printmaking technique** based on drawing and mark-making - no press required! Working from an existing image, drawing or photograph, participants will learn the sensitive nature of this technique and how to control the pressure and subtlety.

The Plan

Step 1- Set up your work area - you must have a smooth, clean, non-porous surface.

Step 2- Lay down piece of white paper or newsprint onto work area, tape down clear Duralar, acetate, plex, or glass over the top.

Step 3- Squeeze out a very small bead of oil-based printmaking ink, use a brayer to roll out smooth even area of ink, about the size of your image.

Step 4- Tape your sketch or xerox copied photo to the top of thin printmaking paper.

Step 5 - Gently float down paper on top of inky slab - DO NOT touch paper, but gently tape down corners.



The Plan cont.

Step 6- Trace over your sketch or image with a pencil - vary the pressure you apply, for lighter and darker lines, crosshatching and stippling (tiny dots) works great! Experiment to try and capture a wide range of mark-making and textures.

Step 7- Use your finger to rub for areas of value - varying lightly and more firm for variety.

Step 8- Lift up print and inspect. If necessary, use brayer to freshen up the ink slab, lay print back down and continue drawing to develop the image more.

Step 9 -When you are all done, get some soap and water on a rag, or a small dab of vegetable oil. Use your brayer to spread oil all over ink slab and brayer. Wipe clean with paper towel or rag. Be extra sure to clean your brayer well, do not leave inky or greasy.

Step 10 - Optional - allow prints to dry overnight, then use watercolor, colored pencils, gouache, ink, acrylic paint, or your favorite media to add color to your prints.

Teaching Artist Tip

- If your image has a lot of 'grunge' or inky atmosphere, you have too much ink on your slab. Lay down a piece of blank newsprint, rub all over the back, and lift off to remove excess ink from your slab. Freshen up with the brayer so slab is smooth and even.
- Be cautious of resting your hand on your print area while you are tracing over your image unless you want a handprint on your art. You can prop up your wrist with your other hand, or a roll of tape.
- Try a range of mark-making tools around the house and a variety of techniques, for a wider variety of lines and value ranges. Plan to make several test prints, trials, and experiments before you perfect the technique.

Going Further

- Hand color with any of your favorite media, or try something new!
- Thin papers are delicate, too much water or over-brushing may cause it to tear or 'pill' up.

