

SCREEN PRINTING LESSON

To better prepare you and your students for screen printing at MSU NOTSTOCK 2009, the following screen printing lesson has been created for you to use in your classroom.

History:

- Of all the print methods in use today, screen-printing is no doubt one of the newest, yet it has ancient origins.
- It is one of the simplest, most direct procedures for obtaining multicolor images.
- The antecedent of screen-printing is stenciling, which was used to make symbols and decoration in prehistoric times.
- Evidence of early humans' clever application of a most familiar and accessible stencil, their own hands, on the walls of a cave.
- In the United States the screen print developed within the commercial printing industry. Posters, displays, signs, and billboards were produced using this method, in great quantities.
- It was a reduction method similar to one used for some relief printing. Only one screen was used and the largest color area printed first; then part of the design was blocked out with glue and a second color printed; and so on until the print was finished.
- The potential for printing on diverse kinds of materials and surfaces was the next big step in silk screening – furniture, lampshades, rugs, glassware, plastic, leather, toys and textiles – the possibilities were almost endless.
- By 1925 automated screen-printing machines had been developed.
- Eventually photographic processes became the most important of all processes in commercial screen-printing.
- It wasn't until the 1930s when a few artists and printmakers began to see silk-screening as potential for personal expression. However, because exhibition opportunities were limited, due the screen prints earlier commercial association, it was felt that a new name for the prints might link it to the fine arts. This is when the term *serigraph* was coined; *seri* the greek word for silk, and *graphos* the Greek word meaning to draw or write.
- With the advent of Pop Art, serigraphs became ever more popular and focused on replicating popular commercialism. No longer was the fancy word serigraph useful or needed. Artists were producing screen prints, and they were bold, huge, and multicolored.
- Andy Warhol was the father of Pop Art and prospered because of his early career as an advertising illustrator, as well as, James Rosenquist a former billboard artist, and Roy Lichtenstein knowledgeable in commercial printing processes. These three artists made people see silk-screening as a high art form.

Contemporary:

- Screen printing is alive and flourishing today. It is used to make images and text on t-shirts, labels, circuit boards, electronics, medical devices, signs, snowboard and skateboard graphics, art prints, and posters for your favorite bands. You can find many of these posters at www.gigposters.com.

GRADE: 9-12

UNIT THEME: Printmaking

LESSON NAME: Making a two colored silk screen image

RATIONALE:

- to help to better prepare students for NOTSTOCK festivities
- they will be able to create their own silk screen image
- they will be able to come to NOTSTOCK with the information needed to understand the process and print their own print

MATERIALS:

- paper and pencils for sketching ideas
- some sort of design program (not necessarily needed)
- scanner or photocopier
- Sharpies

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will know what a silkscreen image looks like and how to produce one.
- Students will work together to make their ideas cohesive to create a simple two-color print for reproduction. (Image may be no larger than 8 ½ x 11.)

ANTICIPATORY SET:

- Show images of silkscreen works of art, as well as positives so students understand what they are about to create.
- “Today we are going to create a positive image for a two-colored silkscreen print which we will e-mail to Bill Harbort at Minot State University; where they will place the image onto a screen. We will get to print our image when we attended NotStock on October...”

BODY OF LESSON:

- Show images of silkscreen art and positives
- Talk about positive and negative space, and the execution of making a positive silkscreen image to burn onto a screen.
- Supply students with handouts and step-by-step instructions:
 1. The first step to creating a silkscreen print is creating an image. An image can consist of pretty much anything, one must remember if they want to use a photograph or image with lots of tones they must use halftone dots otherwise the image won't print properly.
 2. Once the image is finished it must be transferred to a computer program and separated into two files. One file will be for the first color and the other file will be for the second color. Each file must be changed so that the image is pure black in color. If the school does not have design programs that allow you to do this method then you can separate the image by using a photocopier. Make sure the image is separated onto two sheets of plain white paper, one sheet for one color and the other for the second color. Make sure the images are black. Place a transparency into the photocopier and print the images onto the sheet. NOTE: You do not necessarily have to print out a transparency if you send the image file to MSU - we can do this for you.

OR

2. Students may also draw an image, remembering to separate it into two colors. Go over your image with a Sharpie to make the image darker for photocopying. Then photocopy

the image onto a transparency. AGAIN: You do not necessarily have to print out a transparency if you can just send MSU the drawings and we can do this for you.

3. Once you arrive at MSU we will have your screens exposed for you. The process for exposing the screens, which adheres the image to the screen, includes the following steps: First, we go into the darkroom and coat a screen with a light sensitive material called emulsion. Once the emulsion has dried we will then place the screen on top of your transparency, on a light table and expose it to a high wattage light for 2 ½ minutes. This is why your image must be completely blacked out with the purest black; if light shines through the black, it will expose the screen, and you won't be able to print your image. Anywhere your screen is exposed to light, the emulsion will adhere to the screen, and it won't allow ink to seep through. Anywhere your screen is not exposed the emulsion will wash out and ink can be printed through this area.

4. There are a few more steps before you can print, but you will just have to attend NOTSTOCK 2009 to find out more, and print your very own piece of art. Students will print their posters on Wednesday, October 21 and possibly on October 22 at MSU NOTSTOCK in the Student Center Beaver Dam.

CLOSURE:

-Collaborate and try to make a image from everyone's images and separate into two colors. If you have any questions feel free to e-mail us.

RELATED ACTIVITIES:

On Thursday, October 22, students will be given the opportunity to screen print one or more of the guest artists' images on t-shirts. So bring your t-shirts and get ready to print!

We look forward to see you at NOTSTOCK 2009!

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