

## Muslin Masterpiece

Create a beautiful textile design using dye sticks and block printing

Lucienne Day (1917-2010) was the foremost British textile designer of her time. Day drew inspiration from plant forms such as flowers, grasses, shoots, and leaves, as well as the intricate patterns of the landscape, then she transformed them onto fabric as something absolutely new.

Day was also strongly influenced by European abstract painting. Her textiles are reminiscent of the work of such painters as Kandinsky, Miró and Klee. It pleased her to think that people who could not afford to buy a painting for their living room could at least own a set of abstract, patterned draperies. Many of Day's printed fabrics were made in long production runs, which kept the price affordable. Her work bridged the gap between mass production and fine art.

In this project, students will create a stunning textile project using simple materials. Pentel Fabric Pastels and Jacquard Water-based Screen Printing Ink combine to beautifully create a masterpiece on muslin. The finished piece can be framed, or used as the face for a pillow.

**GRADES K-12** Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

### Preparation

1. Look at the work of Lucienne Day and other textile designers such as Marimekko for inspiration.
2. Look closely at plant forms for design motifs.
3. Cut muslin into pieces approximately 12-5/8" x 18" and iron out any wrinkles.



### Materials

Jacquard® Screen Printing Ink, Black, 16-oz, (40312-2026); share one jar among class

Quality Unbleached Muslin, 38" x 1-yd (63104-1338); share one yard among six students

Inovart® Soft Rubber Brayer, 4" (40121-1004); share four among class

Wooden Inking Plate, Melamine/Pine (42906-1002); share four among class

Blick® White Sulphite Drawing Paper, Ream, 500 sheets, 9" x 12", 50-lb (10209-1013)

Dixon® Ticonderoga® Pencils, Box of 12, Unsharpened (20305-2009); share two boxes among class

Household Iron

### Grades K-5 will also need:

3M® Commercial Cellulose Sponge, 6" x 4.2" x 1.6" (38014-1006)

Reeves® Watersoluble Wax Pastels, set of 12 (21951-1012); share five sets among class

### Grades 6-12 will also need:

Soft-Kut® Printing Blocks, 12" x 18" (40401-1006); share one block among 12 students

Speedball® Linoleum Cutters, set of two handles and six cutters (40203-1029); need one handle per student; share cutters

Pentel® Fabric Fun Pastel Dye Sticks, set of 15 (01213-0009); share four sets among class





### Process Grades K-5

1. Using Reeves Watersoluble Wax Pastels, draw a design directly onto the pressed muslin, considering the fact that a printed motif will be added later. If desired, a faint pencil sketch can be used as a guide.
2. Using a brayer, evenly spread screen printing ink onto an inking plate or piece of glass.
3. Press pre-cut sponge shapes onto the inking plate to pick up color, then stamp them onto the muslin. Repeat the design motif to create an interesting sense of rhythm.
4. Glue a decorative border onto the finished textile piece.



**Step 1:** Draw a design on the pressed muslin, considering the fact that a printed motif will be added later.



**Step 2:** Press pre-cut sponge shapes onto ink, then stamp them on the muslin.



**Step 3:** Glue a decorative border onto the finished textile piece.



### Process Grades 6-12

1. Using Pentel Fabric Pastels, draw a design directly onto the pressed muslin. If desired, a faint pencil sketch can be used as a guide.
2. When the design is complete, place a sheet of white paper over the design areas and press with a warm iron to set the dye.
3. Carve a design into a small piece of Soft-Kut printing block. The design will be used repeatedly to build a rhythmic motif.
4. Using a brayer, evenly spread Jacquard Water-Soluble Screen Printing Ink onto an inking plate or piece of glass.
5. Roll the inked brayer evenly over the Soft-Kut design, moving both ways across the image.
6. Place the inked Soft-Kut block face-down on the muslin, pressing firmly on all areas of the block and then lifting it off. Repeat inking and printing the motif where desired to create the final design.
7. Iron the back side of the fabric to set the ink, and sew or glue a decorative border onto the finished textile piece.



**Step 1:** Draw a design on the pressed muslin. Place a piece of white paper over the design, and use a warm iron to set the dye.



**Step 2:** Apply a printed motif using the inked Soft-Kut block.



**Step 3:** Iron the back side to set the ink and sew or glue a decorative border onto the finished textile piece.

## National Standards for Visual Arts Education

**Content Standard #1** — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- K-4** Students describe how different materials, techniques, and processes cause different responses.
- 5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.
- 9-12** Students apply media, techniques, and processes with sufficient skill, confidence, and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

**Content Standard #3** — Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

- K-4** Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art.
- 5-8** Students integrate visual, spatial, and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks. Students use subjects, themes, and symbols that demonstrate knowledge of contexts, values, and aesthetics that communicate intended meaning in artworks.
- 9-12** Students reflect on how artworks differ visually, spatially, temporally, and functionally, and describe how these are related to history and culture.