Collagraph Printmaking

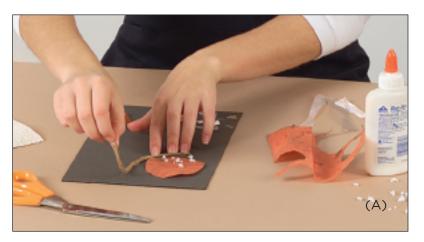
Collagraph is a basic a method of printmaking using a board with collage materials glued onto it to form a relief surface with a variety of textures. A very creative and experimental form of printmaking, collagraph prints can be made with many different materials, including cardboard, yarn, fabric, leaves, masking tape and more.

Grade Levels 2-8

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

Cut chipboard into 8" x 10" pieces using a paper trimmer or packing knife.



Process

- 1. Glue collage materials onto the chipboard to make a specific image or an abstract design, see (A). The printmaking term for this surface is a "plate." Remember, prints will be made in reverse. Some ideas for materials to use:
 - Cut shapes from cardboard or posterboard
 - Textured paper, such as corrugated paper
 - Fabric, felt, burlap or canvas
 - Craft foam shapes, chenille stems
 - Yarn, twine or string
 - Leaves, seeds, small twigs and other organic materials
 - Straw or raffia
 - Blickrylic[™] Gesso (00711-1017) to create a variety of brush strokes and paint-like textures
 - Sand
 - Rice

NOTE: The collage should not be thicker than 1/4" and the materials should not have any sharp edges that might rip the paper.



Materials

All-Purpose Chipboard, double thick (13115-2232); use one 22" x 28" sheet per six students

Materials for collage, see at left

Blickrylic[™] Polymer GlossMedium (00711-1027), share two quarts across classroom

Elmer's[®] Glue-All, 4-oz bottle (23810-1004); one per student

Blick® Water-soluble Block Printing Ink, assorted colors, (40305-); share six 5-oz tubes across class

Inovart[™] Soft Rubber Brayer, 6" (40121-1006); need one per ink color

Speedball® Baren (42905-1045); share two or three across classroom

Copperplate Printmaking Paper (10435-1022); share one 22" x 30" sheet between four students

Optional: scrap fabric for dauber

Process, continued

- Once the collage is created and the glue is dry, materials need to be sealed to protect them from the ink. Cover the entire plate with a single coat of Blickrylic™ Polymer Gloss Medium and allow to dry.
- 3. Apply ink to the collage. Work quickly, because water-based ink will dry in a short time. Apply ink either by:
 - Rolling: squeeze a drop of ink out on an inking plate and roll a rubber brayer through it until the roller is covered. Apply to the collage with long, even strokes, see (B).
 - Daubing: use a sponge or make a hand daubing tool by wrapping a piece of scrap fabric around a ball of more scrap fabric and twisting to form a handle. Dip the dauber in the ink and spread it quickly around the collage, see (C).
- 4. Carefully lay the paper over the inked surface. Use a good-quality paper made for printmaking for best results. Rub a baren over the surface using a circular motion and firm pressure. Make sure all areas are covered by the baren.
- 5. Pull the paper carefully away and view the print. Set aside and allow ink to dry. Clean up ink with soap and water.





Options:

- 1. Make multiple color prints by either:
 - Daubing multiple colors of ink onto the collage and printing them all at once.
 - Starting with the lightest color, make a print. Then, clean the collage plate off with a damp paper towel, apply the next color and print it, aligning it carefully over the first print.
- 2. Make multiple collage plates of varying textures and layer them in one print. Use at least two colors of ink, so that each plate is distinctly visible.

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National Standards

<u>Content Standard #1</u> — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

- K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories
- **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