Monoprint "Screams" on Clay:
Morph, the Surreal and YOU

"Monoprinting" is the process of transferring a drawn image from a non-porous plate onto paper or another surface. In this lesson, students monoprint images of faces onto a flat piece of clay, then "morph" the image by stretching it.

Grade Levels K-6

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

Preparation

1. First, view Edvard Munch's "The Scream" and discuss the artist's use of expression. Ask students why they think the figure is screaming and ask them to talk about things that make them scream (spiders, bats, snakes, for example). Recommended resources:

   Taschen Basic Art Series: Munch (70033-1022) book (caution: contains some nudity)

   The Post-Impressionists DVD Series: Munch (70093-1005)

2. Pass out 5″ x 7″ closeup photocopies of a face. Images of themselves are the most fun for students to work with.

Process

1. Prepare the styrene by removing the protective film and cleaning the surface. Tape the photocopy to the gloss side face-down. Turn over.

2. Using watersoluble oil pastels, trace the face onto the matte side of the styrene. The image can be simple or complex. The example shown above uses just black pastel.

3. Flatten the Model Magic with a roller until it's about 3/8″ thick. Make it as close to 5″ x 7″ in size as possible. The edges may be left uneven.

4. Spritz the surface of the clay lightly with water. It needs to be damp, but not wet, or the pastels will spread. If water is standing on the surface, blot with a paper towel. It is best to test this step first.

5. Place the pastel drawing face down against the clay. Lightly press all areas of the styrene to make the transfer. Don't press too hard or the clay will stick.

6. Immediately following the transfer, pull the Model Magic carefully away from the styrene. Stretch, pull, bend, tweak and distort to morph the face into something surreal.
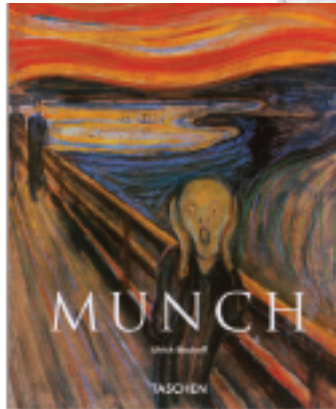
above: monoprint portrait with distortion applied, created from photocopied image, below.

Materials

Amaco® Hard Acrylic Roller (33058-1001); share one between three students

Crayola® Model Magic, classpack of 75 packages of White (33214-0759); need two 1-oz packages per student

Portfolio® Series Watersoluble Oil Pastels (20049-1009); share four 24-color sets across class

Clear Styrene Sheet, 5″ x 7″ (18908-1951); need one per student (may be reused)

Crayola® Scissors (57039-0002); one per student

Holbein® Atomizer Bottle (02912-1003); share four across class

1.

Options

1. This lesson plan could also be used to make objects that drape and bend in a surreal manner. View "The Persistence of Memory" or "Melting Clocks" by Salvador Dali. Follow the instructions above to make monoprint images of everyday objects and drape them over a small block, twig, book or Mini Easel (50360-1001); see example at right. Use scissors to trim the object — Model Magic cuts easily with scissors while moist. Allow it to dry and adhere itself to the object.

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 select media, techniques and processes; analyze what makes them effective or not effective in communicating ideas; and reflect upon the effectiveness of their choices

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

Content Standard #5 — Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others

K-4 Students understand there are various purposes for creating works of visual art

5-8 Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings in specific artworks through cultural and aesthetic inquiry

2.