

Teachers' Notes: Monoprinting

by Gemma Mc Girr

Materials: *Sheets of Perspex, about A3 size*
 Rollers
 Block Printing Ink (it's water based) in primary colours, black, white
 Sheets of newsprint A3 or A4 size
 Sheets of coloured sugar paper
 Lollipop sticks and flat topped plastic clay tools

Encourage the children to look at the video on the making of monoprints. Discuss the way the ink is rolled evenly onto the Perspex, less is best. Discuss why the term monoprint is used and see how each one is unique.

The children can make prints emphasising colour, roll out two or more colours onto the Perspex and take a print. Newsprint or sugar paper is best as they absorb the ink. They can experiment with the effects of colour on colour, complimentary/ contrasting colours.

They can draw directly onto the inked Perspex using a lollipop stick or a flat topped plastic clay tool and take a print. They quickly discover the mirror effect of this.

When a sheet of paper is placed on the inked surface the children can draw on it, roll with a dry roller and lift to see their drawing as a print.

They can mask out areas of the inked Perspex to create a stencil and take a print. These stencils can be any shape and when the print is taken the stencil can be lifted and used to make a positive print on another sheet.

They can make posters using the masking out technique. The area(s) for the text can be masked out, the print made and when dry the text can be added. This could be done on the computer using Word Art.

Masking out areas could also allow the children to make interesting prints to use as frames for photographs, for their written work.

Relevant Artists:

1. Brian Kennedy
2. Stephen Vaughan
3. Picasso
4. Matisse
5. M.C. Escher