Inspired by printmaking techniques in the exhibition

The Art of Jean LaMarr

Create a Trace Monoprint

For your artwork, you will create a line-based monoprint using ink, paper, and drawing. Jean LaMarr uses many kinds of printmaking techniques and processes to tell stories about her experiences as an Indigenous American artist. In this project, you will tell a visual story that is important to you. Your drawing could be based on a photograph or an object that is significant to you.

See a similar project being created here: https://youtu.be/AoPcMhoOlUs

Materials

- Plexiglas printing plate
- a drawing (same size or smaller than the Plexiglas printing plate)
- printing paper (same size or smaller than the Plexiglas printing plate.) A less textured paper will result in a clearer print, more textured paper will result in a blurrier print.
- Slow-drying printing ink
- brayer
- low tack tape
- pencil
Create a Trace Monoprint

Instructions

1. On scratch paper, the same size or smaller than your Plexiglas printing plate, draw the design you will use to create your monoprint. Remember, your artwork will be printed in reverse.

2. **A.** Tape the back right edge of your printing paper down onto the left side of the Plexiglas. **B.** Repeat this process with your sketch in reverse, taping down the back, left edge of your drawing on the right side of Plexiglas. Make sure both papers can overlap evenly when they fold shut. Adjust accordingly.

3. Keeping both papers folded open, use the brayer to roll ink over your Plexiglas printing plate. Roll ink over the entire surface, making sure the ink is even.

4. Gently fold over the paper you want to print on, then the paper with your sketch. Do not press either of the papers down.

5. Use tape to hold down your sketch if needed, then trace over all the lines in your sketch ensuring you don’t rest your hand or press down on the paper with your hand. Everywhere you draw, the ink will be transferred to your printing paper.

6. Gently lift your sketch and printing paper off the printing plate to reveal your artwork!

- Consider how your Trace Monoprint compares to your sketch. What is the biggest difference between the two?
- Which do you think better captures the story you wanted to tell?
- Why do you think some artists choose to use printmaking instead of drawing or painting?
- How does visual storytelling benefit from the printmaking process?