



## **Abigail Merickel – Ex-Libris: Art of the Bookplate**

Students will design, carve and print their own ex-libris (bookplate). Book lovers from the 15<sup>th</sup> century on have marked ownership of their books with a design called an “ex libris” or bookplate. Affixed to the inside cover, it includes the words “ex libris” (meaning from the library of) along with the owner’s name. The design may depict a family crest, a beloved animal or special interest or pass time. Inspired by historical images and information about Ex-libris, students will develop their own idea, learn the art vocabulary of the elements and principles of design, and gain skills in printmaking techniques.

**Objectives:** By the end of the residency the students should know, or be able to :

- To plan and produce hand-pulled prints using printmaking techniques and tools
- To understand how the arts serve a variety of personal, professional, practical and cultural needs
- To learn about the history of Ex-Libris
- To communicate using a simple art vocabulary related to printmaking
- To create a work of art using experiences, imagination, artistic methods and composition to achieve desired effect

**Lesson Plans** Grade level 3-12 , Age 8-17 years old, 25-30 students per class, 1 ¼ hour lesson per session

Session 1:

- Introduce myself as an artist; Introduce the project; Show inspirational examples of the ex-libris designs made by artists throughout history
- Present elements of design: line, texture, positive & negative; Show visual examples of these through various artists’ work
- Introduce themes; brainstorm ideas and make two possible designs for ex-libris on plan sheet
- Demonstrate technique for transferring image onto safety-kut block.

Session 2:

- Present inspiring student examples of ex-libris designs
- Demonstrate techniques to carve the block with carving tools.
- Students choose best design, and transfer onto safety-kut block.
- Students carve image with carving tools into safety-kut block.

Session 3:

- Demonstrate use of materials (brayer, plexiglass) and techniques (rolling out ink and hand printing).
- Introduce signing an ex-libris print and creating an edition.
- Students create their own hand-pulled prints with black and colored inks on various papers. Students create an edition of 4-5 prints, numbering and signing correctly.
- Extra time: Introduce 2-color printing and off-register printing.
- Closure: do gallery walk of appreciation; have students share comments and observations of the project

**STAFF DEVELOPMENT:** I can offer the following activities or workshops: slide show of artist’s own work with follow up discussion; workshops to teach all of the residencies; workshop to help teachers implement printmaking or bookbinding techniques in their classroom as related to the Oregon Content Standards. Several workshop possibilities: papermaking, handmade cards, handmade books, mixed media/collage art, how to publish student produced work as greeting cards to be used as fundraiser.



ARTS CENTRAL

**FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES:** Tables in a self-contained room are preferable but a classroom setting is workable. Materials vary depending upon the project but include easily obtainable school, arts & crafts store, and/or household supplies. Special printmaking supplies—brayers, cutting tools, plexiglass---are artist supplied. All residencies require some set up and cleanup. Volunteers are required. Drying and storage space is necessary. Minimum of three visits. Cost is approximately \$1.00-2.00 per child/per residency.

**MULTI-DISCIPLINARY:** All of my residencies and the various printmaking techniques can be adapted to the classroom curriculum as a way for students to demonstrate visually their knowledge of the curriculum in social studies, science or language arts.

**OTHER OFFERINGS:** A slide show of my work with a follow up discussion; Workshops for teachers to teach all of the residencies; workshops to help teachers implement printmaking or bookmaking techniques in their classroom as related to the Oregon Content Standards

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