



Abigail Merickel – Playful Printmaking Possibilities

This residency allows a school to explore in-depth one of the following printmaking techniques: block, nature, monotype or collagraph. 1) Block: a relief form of printing with safety-kut blocks. 2) Nature: printing leaves, feathers, shells etc. in a nature print composition. 3) Monotype: a painterly print made on metal plates and printed on an antique letter press. 4) Collagraph: a surface and relief print made from found objects & stencils built up on the plate and printed on an antique letter press. Using classroom curriculum for our theme, students design, carve and create an edition of prints with one of the above printmaking techniques while learning art vocabulary, design and the history of art relevant to printmaking.

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

- To understand how the arts serve a variety of personal, professional, practical and cultural needs
- To understand that the arts have a historical connection
- To plan and produce hand-pulled prints using printmaking techniques and tools
- 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

This is a very flexible residency. Number of sessions can vary depending on the school's needs and printmaking technique chosen. Here is an example of activities for a residency on Collograph with Jazz Music as a theme.

Session 1:

- Introduce printmaking technique of “Collograph”-from French “Coller” –to glue and “Graph”—graphics with elements and principles of design. Share my own work as a printmaker using collograph techniques
- Present as inspiration the theme of American Jazz Music through images and historical information.
- Present elements of design: line, texture, positive and negative. Students sketch design ideas.
- Present white on black cut-paper composition exercise to encourage elegant shapes, arrangement of shapes and composition. Students cut their drawing into separate white shapes and arrange on black paper to create overlapping design.

Session 2:

- Present and demonstrate Collograph technique using found objects like rubber tires, lace as stencils; embossing with textured trinkets and hardware; cut into shapes, then inked & printed.
- Students trace and cut out shapes out of cardboard.
- Students create own collograph plate using cardboard and collograph materials based on their design. Seal with glue and set to dry.
- Demonstrate printing a collograph plate on the antique letter press.

Session 3:

- Students print their own unique collograph plates on the antique letter press, experimenting with colored inks and various papers.
- Students create an edition of prints learning how to sign and number an edition.
- Gallery walk and art appreciation: students reflect, critique and share their hand-pulled collograph prints with classmates.



ARTS CENTRAL

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.

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. 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