



## **Abigail Merickel – Block Print Accordion Book**

Students will learn the printmaking technique of block printing. They design, carve and print a block print while learning art vocabulary, design and the history of art relevant to printmaking. Using classroom curriculum, students will form groups around a brainstormed theme. Each student will create a specific image as part of their group's theme in creating a picture storyline book. Lay out and composition of their book will include block print images, printed phrases and symbols to compliment the story and a cover design. Each group will work together printing a complete book for each member.

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

- To plan and produce hand-pulled prints using printmaking techniques and tools
- To brainstorm and collaborate as a group
- 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 block print Accordion book made by students
- Present elements of design: line, texture, positive & negative; Show visual examples of these through various artists' work
- Introduce themes; brainstorm ideas and form groups; Groups plan story line
- Sketch out ideas, draw designs and begin carving image in blocks

Session 2:

- Continue carving blocks; students learn how to roll out ink and print blocks using printmaking vocabulary
- Students make any necessary changes on block; Continue to make prints experimenting with colored inks and colored paper with their own block print images.
- Students create an edition of prints learning how to sign and number an edition

Session 3:

- Students fold butcher paper into mock book to plan lay out and design of book
- Introduce Composition: students compose images on each two panels; Introduce Repetition: images or symbols are repeated throughout the book; Introduce Flow: how the lay out and design look harmonious when opened and displayed
- Each group chooses symbol for their book's theme; One student carves and prints symbol; other students plan and print words into book layout on mock book
- Students fold good quality printing paper into accordion fold for final book



Session 4:

- Lay out all copies of folded books with mock book example on top to show design lay out; students begin printing all their group's books; Make more than one print from each inked block to save time; Make adjustments on color and design on final book if necessary
- Add images and words to title page and back cover with names of participants, dates, school and place
- Stand books up to dry and admire
- 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.

**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