

PRINTMAKING - DREAM POSTERS

INTRODUCTION

Make a poster about something you've dreamt about, using printmaking techniques to communicate your message.



MATERIALS

- Foam printing plates, or styrofoam
- Pencil
- Printmaking ink
- Brayer
- Plastic or another smooth surface to roll ink
- Printmaking paper or any heavy paper

VOCABULARY

Symbol: something real that stands for or suggests another thing that cannot be pictured or shown.

Printmaking: making designs by printing them from specially prepared plates or blocks onto paper, fabric or another surface.

Multiples: a series of identical artworks, usually a signed limited edition made specifically for selling.

Composition: how the parts of the image relate to each other to create a whole. This includes the placement of objects and the relationship of these objects to each other.

STEPS

- 1** Sketch your design! Start by thinking about your dream - is it something you'd like to change in your community? Is it a vision of yourself in the future? Make a sketch of this.
- 2** Translate your dream sketch into a **symbol**. This should be a simple line drawing that captures the essence of your dream. Think of this almost as a logo - something that can be easily recognized.
- 3** Transfer your **symbol** sketch onto your foam plate or styrofoam. Using your pencil, press into the foam to create a deep indentation for each line in your sketch. Go over your lines a few times to make sure they are very deep.
- 4** Ink your printing plate. Using the **brayer**, roll out your printmaking ink onto the plastic sheet. Once the brayer is covered in ink, roll it over your foam plate.
- 5** Flip your foam plate over onto your paper, so that the ink is face down. Using a clean brayer, press the clean back of the printing plate down onto the paper. Once you've rolled it a few times, peel off the plate to expose your print!
- 6** Now that you've created the centerpiece for your poster, brainstorm what phrase you want to include. For this project we used the phrase "VOICE A WILD DREAM". Pick a phrase that is short and communicates your message clearly, just like your symbol.
- 7** Repeat steps 1-5 to print your text. When you transfer your phrase onto the foam plate, make sure to write it mirrored left to right so that it prints correctly when flipped. When you are placing your text onto the poster, consider the composition and how you want the words and images to interact.
- 8** Now that you have created your printing plates, you can print **multiples** of the same poster or you can try different layouts! How does your message change when you change the placement of your prints?

**Take a photo of your projects and send them
ffleming@oxy.edu or tag us @oxyarts**