

Kids@TURNER Art Activity at Home 2

Silly Putty Print Making

- **Activity Type:** Make silly putty at home and create your own printmaking studio at home!
- **Aimed Grade:** 1st~6th grade
- **Time:** 60 minutes
- **Description:** This activity is creating silly putty at home that can be used to transfer marker or pencil drawings onto other sheets of paper. It is creating your own stamp via silly putty resulting in the children at home creating their own prints. Parental guidance is needed for the putty making process. This activity is intended to give kids the experience of making their prints and to help them better understand the printmaking process.

Related Artwork



Humberto Saenz
La Arca (The Ark), from *Piñatification*, 2008
 Lithograph
 19 x 15 in.



Humberto Saenz
Valero, from *Jugando a la Guerra (Playing at War)*,
 2019, Lithograph, screenprint
 17 x 13 in.

Key Terms/Main Ideas

Printmaking is an artistic process based on the principle of **transferring images** from a matrix onto another surface, most often paper or fabric. Traditional printmaking techniques include woodcut, etching, engraving, and lithography, while modern artists have expanded available techniques to include screen printing.

TYPES OF PRINTMAKING

- **Woodcut:** Woodcut is one of the oldest printmaking techniques and is a form of relief printing. The artist alters the surface of a block of wood with special knives and other tools and carves in the direction of the wood's grain. One feature that sets woodcuts apart from other printmaking techniques is the residual wood grain texture the block leaves behind. The grain itself often becomes part of the print, showing itself through as a texture.
- **Linocut:** Linocut is a printmaking technique similar to woodcuts using a sheet of linoleum, sometimes mounted on a wooden block, for a relief surface. A design is cut into the linoleum with a sharp knife, chisel or gouge, with the uncarved areas representing a mirror image of the parts that will show on print. The linoleum sheet is inked with a roller and then pressed onto paper or fabric. The actual printing can be done by hand or with a print press.

- **Collagraph:** Collagraphy is a versatile print process in which a textured plate is inked up and put through a press. Different textures hold varying amounts of ink and print different tones. Anything can be stuck down and used for example wallpaper, leaves, fabrics, tapes, plastic, and threads. The collagraph plate is then varnished and printed.
- **Engraving:** Engraving is the practice of incising a design onto a hard surface for instance silver, gold, steel or glass. Engraving is the oldest technique of printing and was historically used for mapmaking, illustrations for books and magazines.
- **Lithography:** Lithography uses an image drawn with oil or wax onto the surface of a smooth, level lithographic limestone plate. The stone is treated with a mixture of acid and gum arabic, etching the portions of the stone that are not protected by the oil-based image. When the stone is moistened, these etched areas retain water; an oil-based ink could then be applied and would be repelled by the water, sticking only to the original drawing. The ink can then be transferred to a blank paper sheet, producing a printed page. This traditional technique is still used in some fine art printmaking applications.
- **Monotype:** Monotype prints are unique prints and not editioned like lithograph or lino prints. They are created like a drawing or painting on paper. A monotype refers to the production of a single unique print. Ink is drawn or painted directly onto a plate and can be wiped off, scratched into and manipulated in many ways. Powder can be added to the surface to create a snowstorm type effect, stencils cut out of paper can be used to block off areas and the ink can be thinned down with a solvent to “bleed” in interesting ways.

Material Preparation & Procedure

This activity begins by gathering materials. Pencils, markers, 4-6 pieces of white paper, liquid starch, liquid white glue, a mixing bowl, and (optional) cookie cutters. This might get messy so doing this activity in the kitchen or dining area may be optimal. If you want your silly putty to be a certain color, adding small amounts of food coloring is an option. In a mixing bowl add ¼ c. of white glue, next add ¼ c. of liquid starch (and optional food coloring). Begin to mix with a spoon, once the putty stiffens start to knead with your hands. If the putty is too sticky add just a touch more of starch and mix again until tackiness is gone. To adjust the texture, just add a touch more starch to firm it up, more glue to loosen it up. Once your putty is the consistency of your desires, have your child draw an image on one of your pieces of paper, while they do this get the rest of your paper ready for the printing process. When your child finishes their drawing, help them push the putty onto the drawing and gently remove the putty revealing the picture. This is when the printing begins. Direct your child to their clean sheets of paper and have them smooth the putty onto the paper, firmly press the putty. Next, lift the putty off the paper to reveal your child’s print. Viola! You have made an at home print! Make prints to give to friends and family or to keep as a souvenir of the fun memories of this activity.

Silly Putty Ingredients

- 1/4 c. liquid starch (not corn starch, the laundry type)
- 1/4 c. white glue
- It will transfer pictures using markers or pencil.
- Press putty onto picture, then on to a clean sheet of paper.
- Use cookie cutters to make pictures on it as well.

Discussion Questions & Expected Student Responses

- How do you think printmaking works?
 - It is like making stamps, you move one picture to a piece of paper.
- How do you think printmaking has been used throughout history?
 - In newspapers, magazines, and flyers throughout the schools and towns.
- Is printmaking fun?
 - Yes!

Sample Artwork



Sources

- Collections – Janet Turner Print Museum. – Janet Turner Print Museum – Chico State. (n.d.). Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://www.csuchico.edu/turner/collections.shtml>
- The Typical Mom. (2023, January 24). *Homemade silly putty*. The Typical Mom. Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://temeculablogs.com/how-to-make-homemade-play-putty/>
- *What is printmaking? Nashville Children's Art Classes*. (2019, November 11). Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://nashvillechildrensartclasses.com/printmaking-art/what-is-printmaking/>
- *What is printmaking? The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. (2019, December 17). Retrieved March 22, 2023, from <https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/collection-areas/drawings-and-prints/materials-and-techniques/printmaking#:~:text=Printmaking%20is%20an%20artistic%20process,available%20techniques%20to%20include%20screenprinting>