

Stronger Country Communities Fund

Creative Workshop

Saturday, 26th June 2021

MAGICAL MONOPRINTING

Crazy fun printmaking using a Gel Plate

When: Saturday 26th June
9am-11.30am
Where: Make It Tenterfield
Upstairs @ Mitre 10
210 Rouse St
Who: 16 - 24 year olds

Facilitator: Kylie Heidrich
Cost: FREE

Bookings essential. Phone Erica on 0411 743 100

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Make It Tenterfield INC

Creativity Abounds FRRR Workshop Report

Title Magical Monoprinting with a Gel Plate

16 – 24 year olds

Tutor: Kylie Heidrich

Description

Monoprinting is a form of printmaking where the images produced are unique and one of a kind. Making monoprints using a Gel Plate (a commercial version of a printing surface based on a traditional concept using gelatine called hectography) does not require a large printing press. It is a fun, experimental and forgiving printmaking process, perfect for beginners and young artists and utilises basic materials, art resources and found objects.

The workshop was held on Monday 5th July 2021 was attended by 5 students. The workshop was conducted in the dedicated workshop space at Make It Tenterfield. Participants and the tutor were supplied with morning tea and other refreshments.

Students were shown examples of the tutor's own work using this technique. They were taught the key concepts and techniques guided by the tutor and then experimented with a wide range of materials to produce a large array of prints and images using acrylic paint and found and improvised objects and masks. Works were left to stand alone, refined, and embellished or used set aside to use as collage materials to create future new artworks.

Attendees

Rose	
Taneelsa	
Dianne	
Cherie	
Louise	

What level of contact does the grant recipient have with vulnerable people for the funded activity? CIRCLE ONE	NONE No contact with vulnerable people	LOW Contact with vulnerable people in very limited circumstances	MEDIUM Contact with vulnerable people on occasion.	HIGH N/A	EXTREME N/A
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RISK ASSEMENT TRAINING IN PLACE FOR ALL WORKSHOP FACILITATORS.

(A vulnerable person is a child under the age of 18 years or an adult who is experiencing disadvantage who accesses a regulated activity or service related to the disadvantage.)

Program/Lesson Plan

- Introduction – about the tutor, her work, gauge students' experience/prior knowledge
- Overview of resources and materials including printing plate and brayer care
- Go through handout containing basic techniques
- Demonstration of using Gel Plate and brayer
- Hands on Guided Beginner Exercises (as per handout) – getting familiar with the process and materials

Morning Tea

- Time to Experiment – freely explore the possibilities with different papers, combining techniques, mark making, creating textures, colour experimentation
- Demonstrate and discuss ways to use the prints to make other artworks via embellishment, drawing with markers, collage, and to use on other objects like journals, bookcovers, digital scanning and processing to use in surface design (as shown in tutor's examples – fabric design)
- Clean up

Benefits to participants

- creative conversation and engagement with each other

- fun, messy, quick outcomes in a range of artwork
- process allows for spontaneous freedom in creativity without judgment
- safe, supportive place to take creative risks
- decision making
- quality tuition and instruction from experienced tutor in the local community
- listening and accepting feedback
- developing skills and techniques for later application
- acknowledging that there are different ways of working depending on personal style
- there are no mistakes; just 'design choices' and 'happy accidents'
- mental health benefits through concentration and play
- self-worth and accomplishment
- reusing, recycling and repurposing objects for art making
- respect and care for art equipment and resources
- inspiring examples of real-life applications and possibilities for pursuing art making for enjoyment, self-satisfaction, and potential career choices
- fostering positive relationships with local community members

Key Outcomes

The primary outcome was to introduce students to a different form of printmaking which is accessible to everyone. Exercises were designed with imbedded art elements and principles – colour theory, texture, shape, line, contrast, repetition, pattern, layering (space).

It was also an opportunity for engagement in creativity, messy fun and learning in a supportive, positive and encouraging environment.

Participants left with a large range of original monoprints, and handout materials with tips and technique notes as well as recipe instructions for the homemade gelatin plate as demonstrated. They were very happy with their prints and expressed how much enjoyment they had learning something new – many describing the experience as 'addictive'.

As a small group, we engaged in a casual, art related conversation. We admired each other's prints and discussed and reflected about process and technique to improve or try something different to improve the result. I witnessed each participant deeply engage with their own 'creative mind' through quiet concentration and focus.

There was also a healthy dose of happy, loud banter and conversation at various points throughout the day.

Each student approached their own design choices differently and a personal style emerged for each – through colour preferences, painterly effects, application of paint thickness, choices of objects to use etc.

For next time

- This art making process requires a lot of space for each participant, so a large class number would need a bigger space to work.
- Next time – larger venue at Peakvue Studio, Tenterfield so each student can have a personal larger work area.
- Some students would like to attempt some more advanced/multistep printmaking experiments so an Advanced Techniques Workshop should be planned and implemented at a later date.

