

## Intro to Block Printing with linocuts

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This is an introductory level printmaking class in which we'll explore how to make block prints using linoleum. Block printing is also called relief printing, which includes linocuts and woodcuts, perhaps the two most well-known types. Learn how to plan, draw and transfer your design, prep, cut and print a linoleum block without a press. On day 2 we'll explore the different ways to add color to your print. Finally, we'll experiment with printing on fabric and/or tees (with the press). While you're cutting your blocks, I'll discuss the different substrates for cutting (different kinds of linoleum, rubber, wood, and synthetic materials), different papers for printing on, and the different tools you'll need for different substrates. You can experiment with cutting some of these materials as interest/time allows.

Learn the tricks to making clear, crisp prints easily and without frustration. Make your print as simple or as complex as you'd like, but keep details to a minimum and/or size of block small so that you can finish cutting and printing before end of workshop.

**Day 1:** Come to class with a drawing or design ready to transfer, and we should be printing your block by the afternoon. If your design is more complex and needs more cutting time, you can finish cutting and print on Day 2. Take a break and try your hand at carving a stamp. Paper will be provided for your first prints. More available for purchase at my cost.

**Day 2:** Finish cutting your block if needed. Print multiple copies of your block or experiment with different papers that you bring with you. Learn how to hand-color your print. Use the press to print fabric or a tee shirt. Bring your own fabric or tee if you'd like to try this, and avoid rough or highly textured cloths or paper, as this will damage your block.

### **Supply List**

- Linoleum cutter. I prefer Speedball linoleum cutting set (handle plus cutters/gouges). Some cutters/gouges are available at Whispering Woodlands.
- Linoleum block (5" x 7" – 4" x 6" ideal. No larger than 8" x 10"). Mounted or unmounted.  
Battleship grey linoleum is preferred. I prefer unmounted lino.
- Brayer – soft, rubber 4-6" wide
- Drawing or design, ready to trace down onto your block (any text should be in reverse)
- Iron (preferably an old one you use for crafts)
- Wooden spoon
- Leather gardening or work gloves (to protect you while cutting. I use these instead of a bench hook and thus don't cut myself)

### **Optional supplies**

- Paper of your choice to experiment with (I will provide you with Masa paper for printing)
- Tee shirt or fabric if want to try printing your block on it.
- If printing on fabric with press, unmounted linoleum is preferred.
- Hard, not-crumby erasers to carve for stamps
- Stamp pads for printing any stamps you carve
- Watercolors or water-based inks for hand-coloring prints
- Bench hook for stabilizing your block when cutting (some available at Whispering Woodlands). Works better with mounted linoleum.

### **Available to purchase at workshop from Whispering Woodlands or Sue**

- Rubber material to make stamps out of (starting @ about \$1 for small stamping block)
- Additional linoleum
- Additional Masa paper beyond the 12+ prints you make
- Other papers