



Monoprinting by Claire Cooper

Materials needed

Smooth surface – ideally a glass or Perspex plate (from an old picture frame is fine)

Block printing ink – emulsion or oil based – this can be found at art and craft shops.

A roller – again this can be found at craft shops

Paper – all types – different types will give you different effects – experiment

Items to make marks with – pencils, pens, brushes, cloths, paper towel etc.

Method

There are two main methods of monoprinting – 1- drawing into the ink, then placing paper on the top to create an image. 2 placing the paper directly on the ink and drawing on the back of the paper.

1 – apply a small amount of ink to the surface you are working on (about the size of a 10p piece)

- Using the roller roll the ink out evenly to ensure a good flat coverage over the whole inking plate, this should be a very, very thin layer. (Too much ink and you will end up with a blob for a print – you do need to experiment with this, as different inks require different thickness.)
- Draw your design into the ink; try to get a good contrast between areas with lots of ink and areas with very little, rub, scrub, and scrape to create different effects.
- Place the paper over the top and rub firmly all over the back – a spoon is often useful for doing this as it gives you a good pressure

- Check the print by lifting up the corner, if it's too pale, apply more pressure.
- Leave to dry fully – either leave you print as it is or work into it with pastels, paints, crayons etc.

2 – roll out the ink, as before – it needs to be very thin for this type of printing – more a film of ink than a layer.

- Place a piece of paper lightly over the ink **DO NOT PRESS OR TOUCH THE SURFACE.**
- Wherever you apply pressure you will make a mark on the other side,
- Draw on the back of the paper – a biro is good for this, I find working whilst standing helps me avoid putting pressure on the paper where I don't want it.
- Simply lift off the paper as you finish you design.

This is a simple technique which has many variations – you can paint the ink on, use layers of different colours (especially with method 2) layer and stick different papers, make prints of leaves, and other fine objects – have fun and experiment.

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