

Linocut Printing

Printmaking 1

What is a **linocut**?

- A form of relief printing that involves carving a design into a sheet of linoleum and then transferring onto paper.
- Similar to woodblock printing.
- Developed in Britain between 1850-1875
- Printing can be done by hand or by using a press.
- Carvers are sharp, specialized cutting tools used to cut the linoleum.

The history of linocut

- In the 1800s, linoleum was a material used as floor covering.
- In the early 1900s, linoleum was used as wallpaper in Germany.
- Printmakers at this time used either metal or wood to print before discovering linoleum as a cheaper alternative that was easy to carve.
- This opened doors for artists to experiment with new techniques of printing.

Want to learn more?

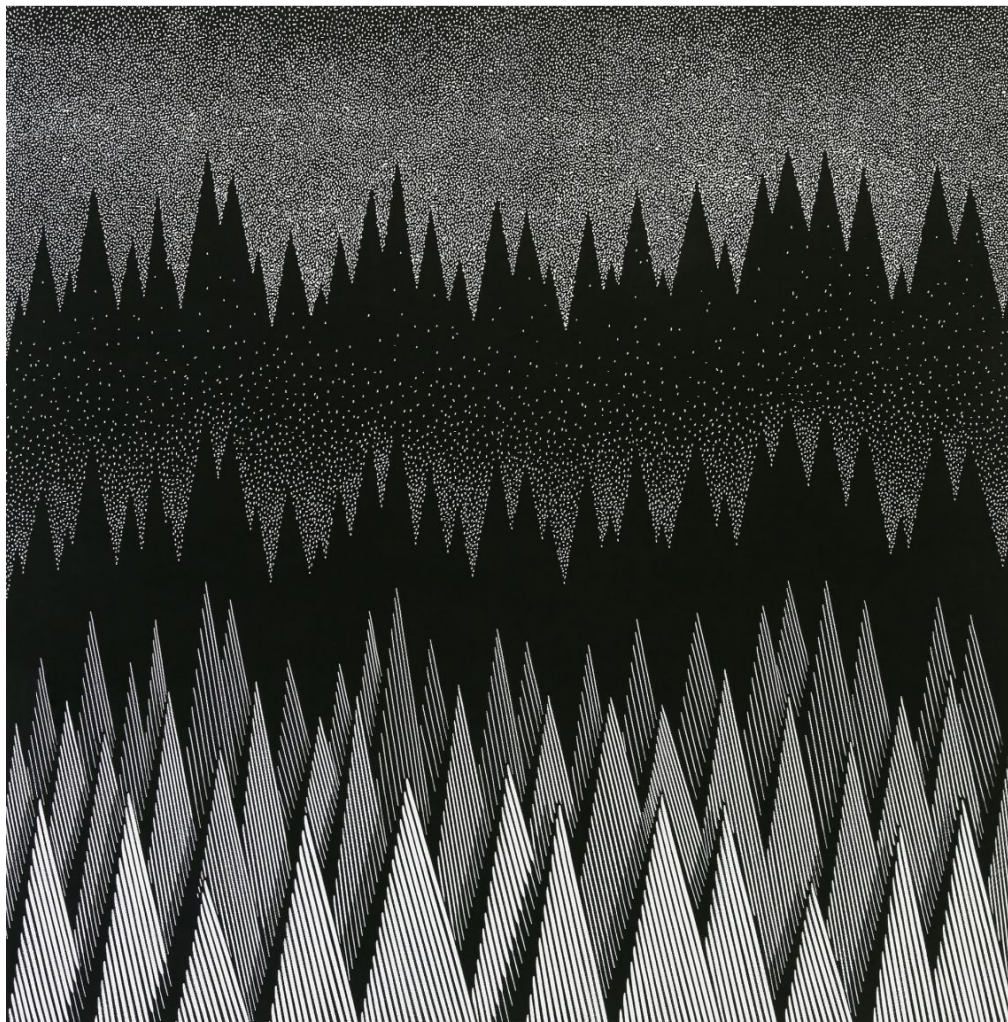
Here are some resources:

<https://greatnorthandartshow.co.uk/the-history-and-process-of-linocut-print-from-paupers-to-picasso/>

<https://curiousseagull.wordpress.com/2017/06/20/a-short-history-of-lino-printing/>



Sophie Sallade - block vs print



Forest Echo
Kari Kristensen
22x24"
2021
Linoleum print
unframed



Off Stage
Kari Kristensen
22x22"
2022
Linoleum print
unframed



Scott Minzy

Watch to see the process!



Project Introduction

- Create a linocut that reflects the prompt: **Object and its Shadow**
- Start by taking reference photos of objects with interesting shadows.
 - *Shadow should be prominent, exaggerated, elongated, warped, etc.*
- Create 4-5 thumbnail sketches.
- Select 1 idea and shade/label shadows
- Project will be carved on a 9x6" lino block and printed on 11x8" paper
- Prints should:
 - Be printed in black ink
 - Include lines of various weight and length
 - Effectively utilize negative space
- Print 5 editions

Project Information

- Studio Habit: **Develop Craft**
 - Learning techniques, materials, artistic conventions, care for materials, etc.
- Guiding Questions:
 - Why is it important to understand proper procedures in handling materials, tools, and/or equipment?
 - How do artists work?
- **Timeframe: 7 classes**

Examples of Object/Shadow



Stations!

- **Station 1: Objects**
 - Take photos of the objects at your table
 - Experiment with different angles/exaggerated cast shadows
- **Station 2: More Objects**
 - Instructions are the same as station 1, just with different objects!
- **Station 3: Hands**
 - Use your hands as a subject for your reference photos
 - How can different angles change the cast shadow of your hand?
- **Station 4: Figure Shadow**
 - Experiment taking photos of a partner
 - Experiment with different angles/exaggerated cast shadows.

Reference Photo Tips

- Take photos against a white background.
- Use a bright light to create a dark cast shadow.
- Use your phone's camera app for the best quality (do not use snapchat).
- Take multiple photos from different angles.
- Convert photos to black & white by dropping the saturation to 0 (do not use a filter).
- Edit photos to increase contrast, darken black point, and enhance/drop brightness as needed.
- Upload 4-5 images to schoology to use as reference for drawing.

Step 1: *Make a plan*

- Consider the prompt.
- Take photos of/experiment with various objects to find one with an interesting shadow.
 - *ex. buildings, trees, plants, or anything available in the classroom/found at home*
- Draw 4-5 thumbnail sketches.
 - *These should be loose, basic drawings to help you get an idea for the composition for your drawing.*
- Choose 1 idea for the final project.

Step 2: *Draw with Line Variation*

- Use your thumbnail sketch/reference photo that you chose for the final project and draw it on paper.
- Fill the space, this will be transferred onto the linoleum block
- Draw the basic shapes/outline of your objects and its shadow
- Use line variation to create lights and darks, do not shade.
- Practice hatching

What is **Line Variation**?

- Line variation refers to the differences in thickness, texture, and quality of lines used in drawing and illustration.
- We will be focusing on using line weight to create depth and dimension
- The thinner the line, the lighter the shadow; the darker the line, the darker the shadow

Examples of Line Variation



Step 3: *Transfer Drawing*

- Use a sharp, dark pencil (2B, 4B, 6B, 7B, 8B) to trace over your drawing.
- Put drawing facedown on linoleum and gently tape together at the top with masking tape.
- Shade the back of your drawing with the same pencil, applying pressure.
 - *This will transfer your drawing as a mirror image onto the linoleum.
(when you print it will flip back to its original form)*
- Trace over your drawing on the linoleum with a sharpie.

Supplies

- Sketchbook
- **Pencil**
- **Linoleum**
- Carving Tools
- Printing Ink
- **Sharpie**
- India Ink
- Slip Mat
- **Paper**
- **Masking Tape**
- Brayer
- Bench Hook
- Palette Knife
- Paper Towels

Step 4: *Prepare Materials*

- Make sure your drawing is transferred on linoleum and traced with sharpie.
- Tint linoleum block with watered down india ink. This will allow you to see your carved lines.
- Create registration board by tracing linoleum block in the center of a 9x12” sheet of paper. Store in your assigned drawer until you are ready for printing.

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Step 5: *Carve*

- You will need a **sharpie, slip mat, linoleum block, and carving tools.**
- Decide which areas will be white and which will be black.
- Color darks in with sharpie. Do not carve areas of lino that are colored black.
- Place the slip mat underneath the linoleum block.
- Use carving tools to carve away the white spaces of your drawing.
- Follow proper safety and clean-up procedures.

Supplies

- Sketchbook
- Pencil
- **Linoleum**
- **Carving Tools**
- Printing Ink
- Sharpie
- India Ink
- **Slip Mat**
- Paper
- Masking Tape
- Brayer
- Bench Hook
- Palette Knife
- Paper Towels

Safety Procedures

- Have a non-slip mat under linoleum when carving.
- Always carve away from your body.
- Pay attention to hand placement (don't carve towards your hand)
- Always carve with a sharp blade.
- Find the correct angle/table height that works best for you.
- If you get cut, wash with soap and water. Apply Neosporin and band aid.

Clean-Up Procedures

- ❑ Clean bench hook and brayer with soap and water at the sink
- ❑ Store wet prints on the drying rack, dry prints in drawers
- ❑ All 5 blades inside the handle of the carving tools.
- ❑ Lino block wiped with a wet paper towel and stored in assigned drawers.
- ❑ Lino shavings thrown away in trash can.
- ❑ Paper towels thrown away.
- ❑ All supplies returned.

Step 6: *Print*

- You will need a **bench hook, brayer, printing ink, palette knife, and paper towels.**
- Use a palette knife to apply ink (a quarter size amount) to the bench hook
- Use the brayer to roll out the ink on the bench hook (you should hear a sticky sound)
 - *If you use too much ink, roll brayer on paper towels to remove some.*
- Roll ink onto lino until the entire block is covered with a thin layer.
- Flip lino face down onto paper, aligned with the registration lines.
- Feed paper and block through the press to apply pressure and print image.

Supplies

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- Sharpie
- India Ink
- Slip Mat
- **Paper**
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- **Brayer**
- **Bench Hook**
- **Palette Knife**
- **Paper Towels**

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Step 7: *Craftsmanship*

Our goal in the craftsmanship phase is to complete the project and turn it in!

We'll follow the steps below:

1. Sign and label all of your prints.
2. Select the best print.
3. Mount it neatly on black paper.
4. Turn it in!

Step One

SIGN & LABEL ALL OF YOUR PRINTS IN PENCIL*



**Unless you printed on black paper, in which case you can use a white or metallic gel pen*

/ EDITION

You created an edition of 5 prints. Label each one out of 5.

1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5, 5/5)

TITLE

The fun part - name your work! The title will be the same on each print.

SIGNATURE

Your signature (and date, if you want)

Step Two

SELECT THE BEST PRINT

Which one...

1. Looks like what you were going for?
2. Is not faded?
3. Is not smudged?
4. Is neatest?

Step Three

MOUNT ON BLACK PAPER

1. Get paper and glue stick from back counter
2. Center the print
3. Cover the back of the print with glue - be sure to pay careful attention to the edges!
4. Glue it to the center

Step Four

TURN IT IN!

Schedule

Day 1

Intro to
linocut &
project

Reference
Photo
stations

Begin
planning &
sketches

Day 2

Reference
photos
due

Group
practice
prints

Review
safety

Learn the
press

Day 3

Work on
thumbnail
sketches

Prepare
materials

Begin
drawing
on final
paper

Day 4

Final Sketch
due

Transfer
drawing to
lino

Begin
carving

Day 5

Continue
carving

Day 6

Finish
carving

Begin
printing

Day 7

Last day
for
printing

Planning/Practice

CRITERIA	GRADING SCALE				
Planning The artist created a plan following the instructions from the teacher. All of the required elements are included. The plans are high quality and can be understood by others.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence

CRITERIA	GRADING SCALE				
Practice / Samples The practice pieces show evidence of learning by following the requirements given by the teacher.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence

Craftsmanship

CRITERIA	GRADING SCALE				
Creative Concept Your work shows originality of thought and imagery. Your work is unique and personal. You show an innovative use of the Elements and Principles of Design.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence
Project Requirements You have met all of the project requirements outlined by the teacher. See Planning/Process slides for requirements.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence
Craftsmanship Your work shows strong ability and use of technique. Your work has a professional finish. It is neatly completed.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence
Studio Habit: Develop Craft You have shown an understanding of this project's chosen studio habit through your working habits and finished work.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence

Reflection

CRITERIA	GRADING SCALE				
Reflection You have explained evaluations of a work of art or collection of works based on differing sets of criteria.	5 Excellent	4 Good	3 Satisfactory	2 Needs Improvement	1 Little Evidence