

Matisse Papercut Inspired Screen Printing



Age Group:

KS2, KS3

Equipment Needed:

- Screens (A4 or square) - one per pair
- Squeegees to fit screens - one per pair
- Paper to print on (card, heavy weight paper)
- Paper for stencils (newsprint, copy paper)
- Scissors
- System 3 Acrylic Paint
- System 3 Acrylic Printing Medium
- Plastic spoons and tubs for mixing

Lesson Objective:

To look at the work of Matisse and explore the techniques used in his paper cut-outs.

To learn how to make a screen print using a hand cut paper stencil.

To understand the difference between negative and positive shapes.

Learning Expectations:

After completing the lesson, each student will be able to produce basic screen prints using paper stencils. After these lessons, students will have a series of two layered prints inspired by the paper cut-outs of Matisse.

Classroom Set Up and Preparation:

- Students work in pairs. Each pair has one desk with one screen and one squeegee between them.
- Tables need to be covered or wipable.
- Screens need to be taped up around the edges of the mesh before using.
- Each screen must only have one colour assigned to it. Once the ink is applied, the colour will remain on that screen. Students can rotate around room in pairs (or screens can rotate) in order to apply a second colour.
- Do not allow ink to dry in the mesh or it will be hard to wash out.

Time Allowance:

1 - 2 hours. For 2 lessons if producing two layered prints.

Additional Resources Needed:

- Selection of Matisse images to look at (either on whiteboard screen or printed out)

Vocabulary:

- Screen
- Squeegee
- Stencil
- Flooding the screen - when you spread the ink over the design so on the next pass, the ink can go through the screen.
- 'Drawing with scissors' - Matisse's freehand style of paper cutting
- Negative and positive shapes



Prep 1

Before the screens are used, use parcel tape to tape up the mesh and the frame on both sides, leaving a space in the middle that is slightly smaller than the paper you are printing on. This is your printing area.



Prep 2

Mix your inks. Mix one part acrylic paint to one part acrylic printing medium for each colour. Here we have used process blue and process yellow.



Prep 3

Mix your inks well. Here we have added a little blue to the yellow to make a lime green ink. These inks can be kept in lidded containers and used again.



Step 1

Each student is given paper and scissors to cut stencils. Practice 'drawing with scissors' technique found in Matisse's artwork with fluid continuous lines. Cut a range of positive and negative shapes. Use Matisse images to illustrate the difference.



Step 2

Each student should produce a range of stencils, including both the positive cut out shape and the negative shape left behind.



Step 3

Print in pairs. When ready to print, place the stencil on top of the paper where you want it to be positioned. Place the screen on top, looking through the mesh to check the position.



Step 4

Spoon out an even row of ink along the top of the screen.



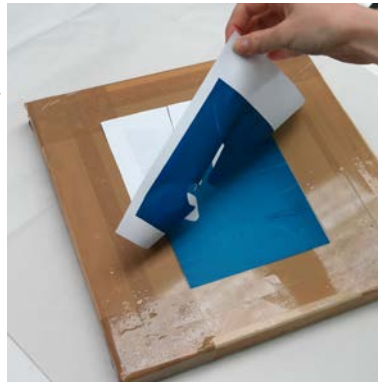
Step 5

While your partner holds the screen down so it doesn't move, hold the squeegee at a 45 degree angle and pull the ink down, applying a bit of pressure. If the ink does not cover the whole of the mesh, repeat. Remove excess ink with the squeegee.



Step 6

Carefully lift up the screen. Have your partner hold the screen upright so it doesn't get ink on your print or desk. You may need to peel the print off the screen.



Step 7

The stencil should stay stuck and can be printed again, or peeled off and a new one can be used. When both partners have produced several prints in that colour, scrape off any excess ink and wash the screen in running water until you can see through the mesh. Do not allow ink to dry in the screen.



Step 8

When prints are dry, repeat steps 3-6 with another colour. This can be done later in the day or in the next lesson. Place the stencils over the existing prints to ensure they are placed correctly.



The finished print

An example of two layered shape prints layered on top of one another.



The finished series of prints

Each student should produce a series of two layered prints that combine positive and negative stencils inspired by the cut-outs of Matisse.

Extension and Expansion Ideas:

- Create a series of registered two layered prints using tape or card as markers to make sure the screen prints in the same place every time.
- Create paper cut out collages that can then be screen printed on.
- Display screen prints together to create a large piece.