

Mastering the Art of Printmaking: Zara's Creative Guide

Learning objective: To understand the techniques, tools, and terminology used in printmaking, exploring how artists transfer images to create repeating patterns and textures.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of printmaking. Read the term or question on the front, then flip to reveal the definition or explanation on the back.

What is Relief Printing?

A process where the raised areas of a block are inked and pressed onto paper, while the carved-out areas remain white.

What is a Brayer?

A small hand-held roller used to spread an even layer of ink onto a printing block or plate.

What is a Block or Plate?

The surface, often made of wood, lino, or rubber, into which an artist carves their design.

Define 'Impression'.

The final result of a print; a single copy of the design transferred from the block to the paper.

What does 'Registration' mean in printmaking?

The precise alignment of a block or stencil to ensure that colours and shapes are placed exactly where the artist intends on the paper.

What is a Stencil?

A sheet of material with a design cut out of it, which allows ink to pass through only the cut-out areas onto the surface below.

Explain 'Texture' in the context of printmaking.

The tactile quality of a surface, which can be created in prints by varying the pressure, the material of the block, or the type of ink used.

What is a Matrix?

The original object or surface that holds the image before it is printed; this could be a carved woodblock or an etched metal plate.

Why is ink consistency important?

If the ink is too thick, it may clog fine carved details; if it is too thin, the impression may look faint or watery.

What is the difference between a monoprint and a repeated print?

A monoprint produces only one unique impression, whereas a repeated print uses the same block to create multiple identical copies.

Zara is carving a lino block. Why must she carve in reverse?

Because the printing process creates a mirror image, so text or asymmetrical designs must be carved backwards to appear correctly on the final print.

Describe the function of a burnisher.

A tool used to rub the back of the paper once it is placed on the inked block, ensuring an even transfer of ink.