

START THE PRESS!

9 FEBRUARY - 21 APRIL 2024



IKON ACTIVITY PACK

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YINKA SHONIBARE

MAYFLOWER - ALL FLOWERS, 2020

A ship is pictured against a clear blue sky. The sails are made from colourful patterned fabric and on top of its mast is a bouquet of flowers.

The Mayflower was the name of a 17th Century ship which carried colonisers from Europe to the Americas / 'The New World'.

This artwork uses printmaking and collage. Each colour has been printed separately to create the sky, water, ship and flowers. The woodblock printing technique has helped to create a texture on the ship, making it look old and faded.

The artist has cut away the sails of the ship to reveal the vibrant Batik fabrics underneath. Batik is a method of printing patterns onto fabric that uses beeswax as a resist.

These textiles are very popular in West African countries including Nigeria, and are a signature material in Yinka Shonibare's artwork.



PRINTING PRESS



This Intaglio press was built in the 1800s and was originally used to make nautical maps of the land and sea.

The size of the press is called *Double Elephant*. In imperial measurements, this was the size of paper that could fit on the press (26 × 40 inches).

It has been at the Wolverhampton School of Art since 1970 where it has been in regular use by artists and printmakers.

During Ikon's exhibition *Start the Press!*, eight printmakers work in the gallery to create original artworks using the press.

Using the techniques in this pack, you can make your own print with an 'aged' texture and design your own vibrant fabric pattern!

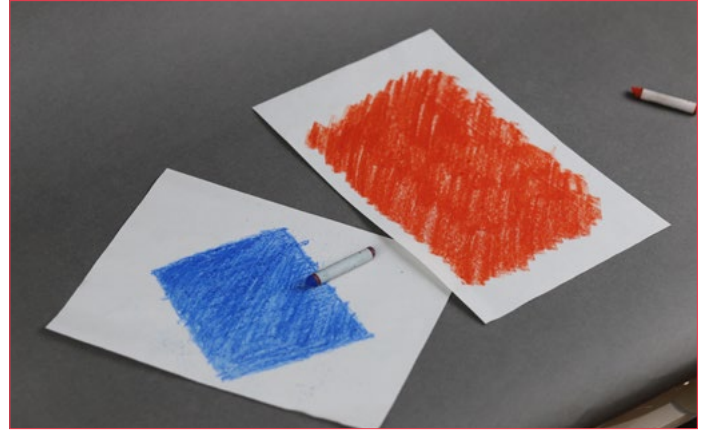
MONOPRINTING

A simple, fast and effective way to transfer an image or text, monoprinting can produce a variety of wonderful textures.

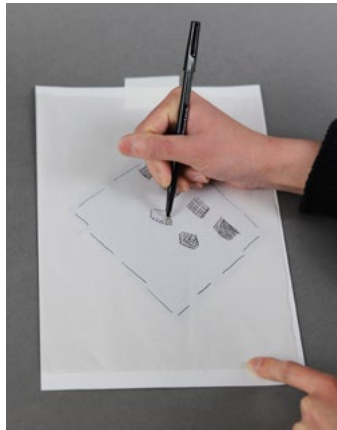
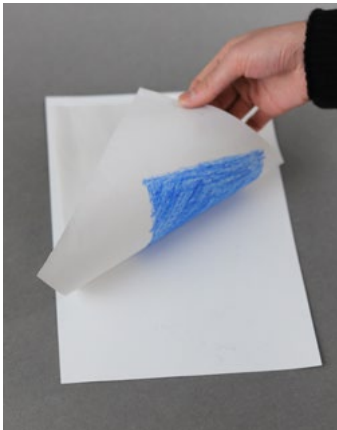
You can create your own design or pattern as you go, or trace over an image, text or collage.



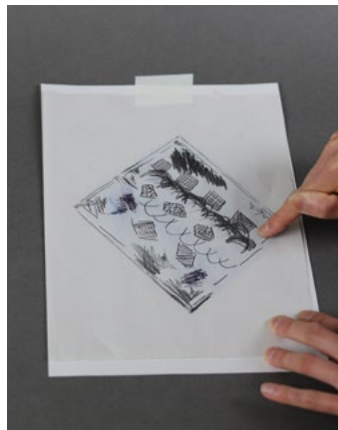
1/ Gather your materials: paper, oil pastels, a biro or pencil, baking paper, old magazines.



2/ Cover a sheet of baking paper with oil pastel. Press hard to add as much colour as you can.



3/ Secure with tape to your printing paper. Begin drawing with a biro, pencil or other tool.

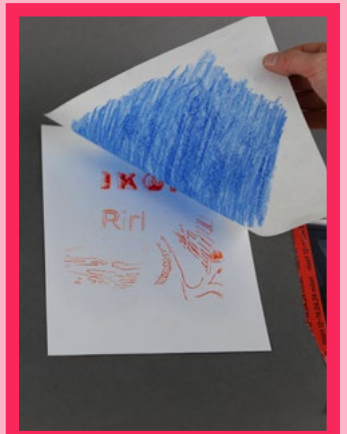


4/ Try making lots of different marks. Lift up your sheet to see how different marks look.

Now try:

For your monoprint design, **create a collage** using old newspapers or magazines. Simply trace over your collage with a biro or sharp pencil.

Create a 2-colour monoprint. Complete steps 1-4 in your first colour, then repeat using a different colour to add extra details or shading.



FOAM BLOCK PRINTING

This **relief print** can be made with a sponge, thick cleaning cloth, polystyrene or foam sheet. You can also use a cardboard base as your **printing plate**. Take extra care when cutting cardboard.

You will need: scissors, glue, poster paint, paintbrush or a sponge, paper for printing.



1/ Cut one large piece, and some smaller pieces of your foam material.



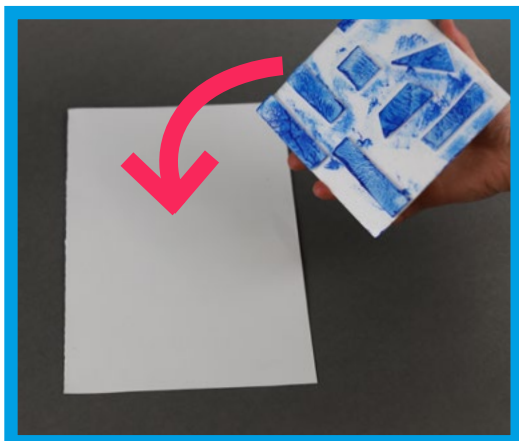
2/ Arrange your pieces on the base to form a design.



3/ When you are happy, glue your design in place. Make sure each piece is stuck down.



4/ Carefully apply a layer of paint or ink over the raised areas of your plate.



5/ Firmly stamp your design onto a sheet of paper. You can make as many prints as you like!



Now try:

Tile your design on a large sheet of paper or fabric.

Rotate your print each time to make a new pattern!

See what happens when you **layer another colour** over the top.

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PRINTMAKING GLOSSARY



Printing Press – A machine used to reproduce images or text by transferring ink from a plate onto paper.

Printing Plate – A sheet of metal, stone, plastic or glass which can be used multiple times to transfer an image onto paper.

Screenprint/Silkscreen – A type of printmaking where ink is pushed through a stencil.

Relief print – A print where the raised area of the plate carries the ink, such as a rubber stamp, potato or sponge print, wood-block print, or lino-cut print. Ink is applied with a roller.

Intaglio Print – A print where the image is made up of grooves or scratches into a plate. Ink is rubbed into the shallow grooves with a cloth. An image is made by carving directly into the plate (**engraving**) or by placing it into acid (**etching**).

Lithography – A smooth printing surface where different textures are applied to create an image.

Monoprint – An image is prepared by applying ink to a smooth glass or plastic plate, then a single print is made by laying paper directly over the ink.

Emboss/Deboss – When a printing plate is pressed into paper it leaves behind a shallow 3D impression.

Ink – Thicker than paint and containing lots of coloured pigment. Printmaking ink is usually spread out with a roller or palette knife.

Registration – When an artist makes lots of the same print, the paper must be carefully placed in the same position each time, so that it 'registers' with the inked plate. Registration is also important when printing two or more colours on the same artwork.

SCHOOLS AT IKON

Ikon welcomes school groups and offers free online resources, activity packs, tours and workshops.

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Open Wednesday–Sunday, 11am–5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

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Cover: Yinka Shonibare
Mayflower, All Flowers (2020)
Image courtesy Yinka Shonibare CBE
and Cristea Roberts Gallery, London
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