Art Educators of NJ
Breakfast and a Workshop
January 29, 2017
Elementary Division

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Branchburg, NJ  
Elementary Division Winner  
AENJ Breakfast and a Workshop

Printmaking

**Goal:** Children will explore the creative possibilities of designing, making and using block prints.

**BTSN Unit Objectives:** Understanding application of various printmaking methods. The students will:
- Read a brief history of printmaking and view examples (1.5).
- Identify how printmaking is a relevant part of their everyday lives (1.1).
- Create 2 original designs (one using geometric shapes and one using organic shapes) (1.2,1.3).
- Critique, make adjustments and select the best composition for the block (1.1,1.4).
- Pull an edition of at least 3 good quality prints (1.1).
- Sign, number and title the prints, (1.2).
- Discuss and define vocabulary (1.1).
- Evaluate, and critique the finished assignment (1.1,1.4).

**NJ Content Standards:**
1.1 All students will acquire knowledge and skills that increase aesthetic awareness in the visual arts.
1.2 All students will refine perceptual, physical and technical skills through creating visual arts.
1.3 All students will utilize arts elements and arts media to produce artistic products and performances.
1.4 All students will demonstrate knowledge of the critique process.
1.5 Identify various historical, social and cultural influences and traditions, which have influenced contemporary art.

**National Content Standards:** Understanding and applying media, technique and process.

**Skills Array:** Control and manipulation of medium.

**Vocabulary:**
- **Printmaking:** involves the creation of a master plate from which multiple images are made.
- **Block printing:** a printing method in which a block of wood, linoleum or some other material's surface is carved so that an image can be printed from it.
- **Bas Relief:** A French term meaning "low-raised work."
- **Organic:** An irregular shape, or one that might be found in nature.
- **Geometric:** Geometric designs are typically made with straight lines or shapes from geometry, including circle, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares, etc.
- **Rhythm:** A visual tempo or beat. The principle of design that refers to a regular repetition of elements of art to produce the look and feel of movement. It is often achieved through the careful placement of repeated components which invite the viewer's eye to jump rapidly or glide smoothly from one to the next.
Contrast: A large difference between two things - opposites; for example, hot and cold, green and red, light and shadow.

Unity: All of the elements of art and design work well together.

Negative Space: The parts that are carved away.

Positive Space: The parts that are raised.

Subtractive sculpture - is the oldest form of sculpture and involves removing material, as in wood carving or stone sculpture, to create a finished work.

Assessment
Refer to objectives.

References


Internet Sources:
Block Printing. www.its.uidaho.edu/4-H/VACC/printing/block_printing.htm

History of Printmaking
http://www.slideshare.net/ler23/final-printmaking-8524331

How A Linoleum Block Print is Made. www.members.aol.com/gomieswife/linblocks

Sculpture
http://www.slideshare.net/chandelfino/sculpture-additivesubtractive-and

MATERIALS
Balsa Foam Blocks 3" X 3" X 1/2", (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS 2017 catalogue: 48 BLOCKS @ $40.95).

Stylus Sticks (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS, 2017: PKG OF 100 - $2.55).

Foam Brayers (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS).

Speed Ball Water Soluble Block Printing Ink (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS).

Dippity-Dye and Assorted Papers (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS).

Amaco No. 67 Indian Red Clay (NASCO ARTS & CRAFTS, 50 lb moist $22.30.)

Spoons, News Paper, Styrofoam plates or trays, card board, Assorted Glazes and underglazes, construction paper, mats, masking tape.
YOUR DESIGNS MUST SHOW:
ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE,

See the example below – the sides are different

CONTRAST MEANS DIFFERENCES, OR OPPOSITES SUCH AS: LARGE AND SMALL, THICK AND THIN, ROUGH AND SMOOTH.
PROCESS

1. Trace your block 4 times.
2. Create 2 designs using geometric shapes.
3. Create 2 more designs using organic shapes.
4. When your design is approved, use a pair of scissors and cut it out.
The sketches are due:

Block printing check list:

1. I created 2 geometric designs. __
2. I created 2 organic designs. ______
3. The __________ design is the one I like the best.
4. My design shows asymmetrical balance, (the sides are different). ___
5. My design shows contrast (differences, large and small shapes, thick and thin lines, straight and curved). ___
6. I repeated lines and shapes at least 3 times each. Describe to Mrs. Barry the lines and shapes that you have repeated.
7. My design shows unity (all of the parts look like they go together well). _____
8. ASK THE PEOPLE AT YOU TABLE TO CRITIQUE YOUR COMPOSITION BEFORE YOU SHOW IT TO ME!
9. Mrs. Barry approve my design. ___
5. Flip it over (your design is facing the table).
6. Use a pencil and blacken in the white side (the side facing up).
7. Use 4 small pieces of masking tape, and tape it to your block. The black side is touching your block and your design is on top.
8. Use a blunt pencil or ball point pen and carefully trace over your design.
9. Remove the paper.
10. Use a stylus and carefully begin to carve your design.
Printing in Clay

Before we print with ink, we print in clay first.
- Slabs of clay are rolled.
- Place the cardboard on the table.
- Placed the block on the cardboard with the relief side facing up.
- Gently place the slab of clay over the block.
- Using your fingers, carefully press the clay into the block.
- Next, use the hard rubber brayer – carefully rolling the clay into the block.
- Let the clay set for at least 5 minutes.
- Teacher will use an X-acto knife to trim the edges, or students may carefully tear the edges.
- Ask the children to use a pencil and carefully carve their names in the clay.
- Take another piece of cardboard and place on top of the clay.
- Flip over and gently pull the block from the clay.
- Let the clay air dry and bisque fire to cone 04, or to the manufactures instructions.

Glazing
- Apply 3 coats of glaze, or according to the manufactures recommendations.

AFTER THE CHILDREN PRINT IN CLAY, WE THEN PROCEED TO:
Pull 2-3 good quality prints in color.
Pull 2-3 good quality prints in black and white.
1. On a sheet of newspaper lay out 2 pieces of card board, your clay slab and your carved block.

2. Place the slab of clay on top of one of the card board pieces. Now place the carved side of your block on top. Try to center.

3. Place the second piece of card board on top of the block and flip it over.

4 & 5. Use your thumb to gently press the clay into the carved areas of the block.
1. On a sheet of newspaper lay out 2 pieces of card board, your clay slab and your carved block.

2. Place the slab of clay on top of one of the card board pieces. Now place the carved side of your block on top. Try to center.

3. Place the second piece of card board on top of the block and flip it over.

4 & 5. Use your thumb to gently press the clay into the carved areas of the block.
6. Gently run your finger around the edges of the block. The block is sticking up and the edges of the clay are touching the paper. Place the card board back on top of the slab. Lift up the cardboard sandwich and flip the slab over.

7. Remove the cardboard and gently peel the clay from the block.

..... And here it is.

We are using low fire clay. Let your tile air dry, then bisque fire to cone 04.
Relief Sculpture
After the children have finished printing in clay we have a brief review and discussion about different types of sculpture and relief. After all of the printing is done, we proceed to the next step:

- Select a color for your final inking. I usually give 3 choices:
- black, silver or gold.
- Carefully ink the sides and the top area.
- Let it dry completely.
- Mount onto matted oak tag.
- Display and Enjoy!

HOPE YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME!!!!!!!!!
ENJOY,

Rocky
AENJ BREAKFAST AND A WORKSHOP
JANUARY 28, 2017
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Samples of student work:

Carved Blocks – this was the final inking. The blocks were mounted and framed as a relief sculpture.

Trays that were printed in clay with the blocks:
Block Prints

My students were required to pull 3 prints in color....

...and 3 in black and white.
Some were hand colored using colored pencils.