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## Introduction to Screenprinting

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## Intro to Screen Printing

**Lesson Objective:** Students will learn about the basics of screen printing and make their own prints through an adapted screen printing process using embroidery hoops and fabric. It is important to note that this lesson must take place over at least a span of **two days**, as the mod podge needs time to dry. "Introduction to Screenprinting" powerpoint goes along with this lesson.

### **Standards:**

2.6 Create an original work of art emphasizing rhythm and movement, using a selected printing process.

### **Materials:**

Embroidery Hoops

Screen Fabric or Pantyhose

Water based Screenprinting Ink

Bristol Paper or Fabric for printing on

Old Cards for spreading ink (ID's, credit cards, gift cards, etc)

Shirts (optional)

Dull pencils for tracing the image

Scratch paper for sketching/drawing image

Drafting Tape

### **1. What is Screen printing?**

- a. Screen printing (also known as silk-screening and serigraphy) is the process in which ink is pushed through a fine mesh or screen that is mounted in a type of frame and onto a porous matrix such as paper or fabric.
- b. Commonly used to create shirts! There may be even a few students in your class with screen printed shirts during the lesson.

### **2. Screen Prints by the Masters...**

- a. Corita Kent
- b. Takashi Murakami

### **3. How does it work?**

- a. There are many methods, but traditionally there is some type of blocker that keeps the ink from coming through the screen, and the image on the screen does not have the blocker applied.
- b. Ink is then pushed into the screen and it only goes through on the areas that do not have the blocker applied. This creates the print!

- c. (This is a simple explanation, the powerpoint included goes into more detail.)

#### 4. Setting up Your Screen

- a. Separate the two halves of the embroidery hoop and place a piece of screen in-between. Make sure the screen is large enough to fill the entire hoop. Close the hoop and tighten it until the material is pulled tightly and evenly. Trim the edges of the screen if there is any excess.

#### 5. Choosing your Image

- a. The image must be single color, and must not touch the edges of the screen.
- b. There is a slide with several examples to show on the powerpoint.
- c. Allow the students to do some preliminary sketching and make sure the images they want to choose are not too large or too complicated.

#### 6. Tracing Your Image

- a. Once the students have decided on an image, place the mounted screen over the image, tape the screen down, and allow the students to trace it directly onto the screen with a dull pencil
- b. The pencils must be dull and soft so they do not snag and rip the screen.

#### 7. Adding the Mod Podge

- a. With a paintbrush, apply mod podge to the parts of the screen that you do not want ink to go through.
- b. This means the area in which you drew your image will not have mod podge applied.
- c. After a thorough application, the screen must be left to dry overnight.

#### 8. Inking your Image

- a. Place your screen over your paper and place a small amount of ink

at the top of the image.

b. Take a card and swipe the ink down and across the image, flooding the screen. Do this a few times to even coat the image with ink.

c. Lift the screen from the paper, and there is your first print!

#### 9. Making Multiples/Touching up Your Screen

a. Keep inking and making multiples, any areas on your screen that you missed with the mod podge can be covered up now with tape.

b. Make sure that each student produces at least an edition of 5 prints that are the same color. Afterwards they can experiment with new colors and materials.

c. Clean the screen once you are finished with soap and water.

#### 10. Lesson Reflection

a. What did you like and dislike about this process?

b. How is this process different than relief printmaking?

c. Which process do you prefer more, relief printmaking or screen printing? Why?