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Introduction to Screenprinting

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Recommended Citation

Intro to Screen Printing

What is Screen printing?

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.

# Screen prints by the masters...

Corita Kent

Takashi Murakami

How does it work?

There are many ways to create a successful screen print. Traditionally, there is some type of **blocker** applied to the screen so that the ink will not go through. The areas where the image appears are not blocked, so ink is able to come through the screen. In standard screen printing, light sensitive **emulsion** is applied and the image is burned onto the screen. This process requires a dark room. However, you can also use stencils or other forms of blockers on the screen that do not require a dark room. Today we will be using **mod podge** as the blocker on our screens.

Screenprinting Diagram
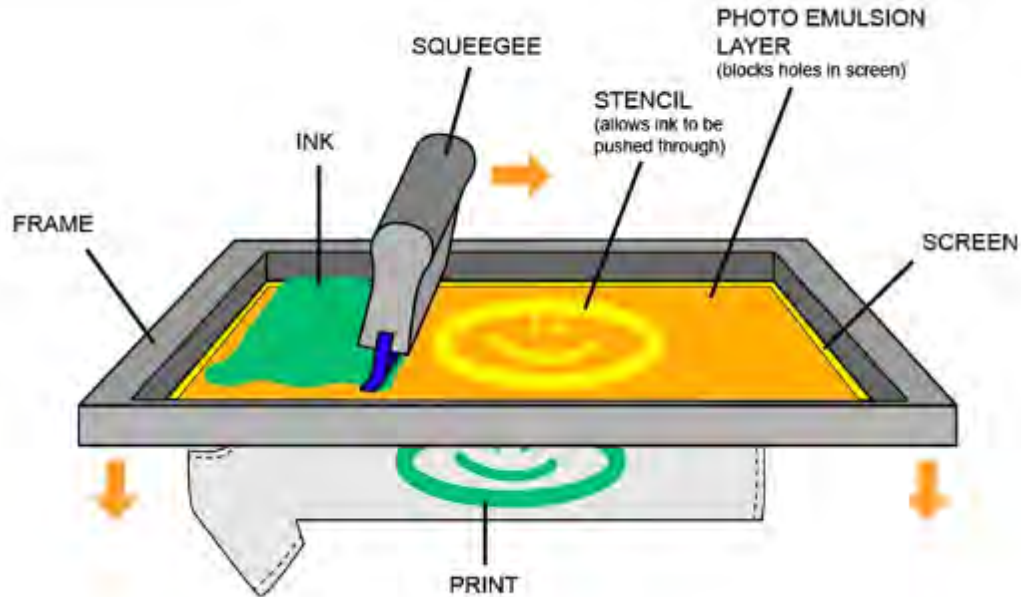
Ready to make your own prints?

Step 1: Setting up Your Screen

Seperate 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.

Step 2: Choosing Your Image

- This will be a single color image.
- Pick an image that floats in the middle of the screen and does not touch the edges.
- A good place to start is to think of characters or logos.

Step 3: Tracing Your Image

- Once you have your image drawn on regular paper, it is time to trace it onto the screen!
- Place the screen flat on the image, tape your screen down, and trace the image with a dull pencil onto the screen.
- Make sure no parts of your image touch the edge of the screen.

Step 4: Adding the Mod Podge

- Once your image is drawn, it is time to add the Mod Podge.
- With a paint brush, apply to mod podge to the parts of the screen that you DO NOT want ink to get through.
- This means the area in which you drew your image will not have any mod podge applied.
- After a thorough application, you screen must be left to dry overnight.

Step 6: Inking your Image

- Once the mod podge is dry, it's time to make prints!
- Place your screen over your fabric or sheet of paper
- Place a small amount of ink at the top of the image on the screen
- Use the cards provided smear the ink down and across the image, evenly coating it.
- Do this a few times, then life up the screen to reveal your print!

Step 7: Making Multiples/Touching up Your Screen

- Keep inking and making multiples, if there is a potion of your screen that was missed or exposed, you can cover that up with tape.
- Make at least an **edition of 5.**
- Once you have at least 5 alike prints, you can experiment with different colors and materials.
- Clean your screen with soap and water once you are finished.

Step 8: Lesson Reflection

- What did you like and dislike about this process?
- How is this process different than relief printmaking?
- Which process do you like more, relief printing or screen printing?