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Block Printing Textiles

Block printing is a form of relief printmaking that can be done at home with a few tools. We will be creating our own designs and printing them on fabric items of choice to make unique linens, clothing, and more! This class would be great for anyone interested in printmaking, textile design, fashion, or stamping. No printmaking or drawing experience is necessary. The Zoom class sessions will include demonstrations, tips, and share outs. Adults and teens 14 and older are welcome!

Course Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the history and applications of block printing, particularly on textiles
- Learn how to draft an image for relief printing
- Learn best practices for carving and printing on fabric
- Leave the class with at least one finished textile print and a reusable block.

Materials student will need to provide:

This class will be held via Zoom. Your home workspace should be well lit and you should have a comfortable amount of desk space to work at. The following materials are required and can be purchased at most fine art supply stores. **These materials can be purchased at -**

<https://www.dickblick.com/categories/printmaking/block-printing/>

- **carving tools** - Speedball Lino Set or Flexcut Lino/Relief Printmaking Set
- **block printing ink for fabric** in at least one color of your choice (I recommend Speedball)
- **2" soft rubber brayer**
- **scrap fabric** for test prints
- **at least one pre-washed fabric item to print on** - some ideas: tea towels, reusable grocery/tote bags, t-shirts, pillow covers, or even a yard or two of plain fabric. You can print on most materials but check the label of your ink to be sure. I would also steer away from heavily textured fabrics, for example terry cloth or faux fur would not be ideal to get a crisp print.
- **Speedball Speedy Carve block** - either several small pieces or one large piece you can cut down. You will need at least one small piece for practice and an additional piece for each design you intend to make.
- **tracing paper**
- **6B or softer pencil**
- **bench hook** - I recommend getting a metal one that can double as an inking plate
- **a wooden or metal spoon**

Optional:

- black Sharpies in a couple of different widths
- barren
- inking plate (you can buy one from an art supply store, or a piece of flat, non-porous material like glass from an old picture frame will work too.)
- scissors
- painters tape or masking tape
- newspaper or drop cloth to protect surfaces from ink