

Art 3200: Stamp Print Letter Design

You will be carving designs into erasers and using markers to make *relief prints*. When printed, the areas that are cut away will remain the color of the paper, while the uncut or raised areas will print the colors that have been applied to them. The *repetition*, or repeating, of relief prints can create surprising, new patterns.

How to Begin:

1. Draw your design in your sketchbook.
2. Your letter will be the focal point of your design. Create a pattern behind your letter. Sketch at least 3 possible designs in your sketchbook.
3. You will then draw the design that you like best onto your eraser with a black marker.
4. Cut out the lines or the spaces between the lines with carving tools.
5. Remove any bits of eraser caught in the cut away areas with a paint brush.
6. Experiment with different colours by wiping off the eraser with a damp sponge and drying it well. Apply new colours and test again.
7. Plan your design on your guide sheet.
8. Draw an arrow on the back of the eraser pointing to one of the eraser's corners.
9. Each print should be made within one of the squares on the guide sheet. The direction of the arrow should remain consistent throughout the printing process. For example, when printing in a circular pattern, the arrow should rotate and always point to the the circle on the guide sheet each time a print is made.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- You will need to reapply the marker ink before each impression is made.
- Be sure the surfaces of the erasers are square, so the prints will line up properly.
- Practice and get a feel for the cutting tools by carving a few lines into the bottom of their erasers.
- Use the lighter colors of markers first to keep them from picking up the darker colors. If the markers do become discolored, wipe them with a paper towel.
- Use magazines for the padded printing surfaces instead of newspaper, which tends to leave marks on the rice paper.
- If time permits, it's fun to see the effects of using different colors and different printing patterns.

TALK ABOUT YOUR WORK:

Answer these questions in your sketchbook. Use complete sentences.

1. What happens to the patterns as the prints are repeated?
2. Why do some patterns have more white space than others?

