

# Simple Printmaking

*Four ways to make prints at home*



Printmaking allows an artist to make the same image over and over again using a template. Many different countries and artistic traditions have create prints using a variety of methods. Most printing involves using a large printing press and a lot of pressure to transfer ink between a plate and a piece of paper. A **plate** is where the artist creates the image originally, before it is printed over and over again. There are many different types of tools and materials an artist can use as a printing plate.

In *After Spiritualism*, Imna Arroyo uses a **collograph** plate. Collographs use every day materials attached to a hard surface as a printing plate. The different textures of the attached items make different shapes when printed onto paper.



(Imna Arroyo, "Ancestors of the Passage: A Journey through the Middle Passage", 2000.)

Below you can find website with directions for the first three and a longer tutorial for the glass plate monotype. There is even a video tutorial on our website! Expand your at-home artmaking skills and try out one of these techniques. Don't forget to post your picture on social media and tag #FAM #MuseumFromHome !

Happy making!

### Method 1: Crayon Impressions

You can use simple wax crayons and capped pen to trace colorful drawings from one paper to another! Great for young crafters.

**Extra credit:** Use a printed version of your favorite artwork to trace a colorful version!

**Directions here:** <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/crayon-transfer-drawings>



### Method 2: Paper Marbling

Messy fun for all ages, use shaving cream and food coloring to make beautiful marbled paper.

**Extra credit:** Sometimes artists use a layer of tape to keep an area “clean” while adding color around it. Try taping off a picture or word in the middle of your paper before it touches the shaving cream. Peel it off after and see what happens!

**Directions here:** <https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/shaving-foam-marbling.html>



### Method 3: Cardboard Relief Prints

If you’re handy with a pair of scissors or an exacto knife you can make simple relief prints with cardboard and paint. Use up some of those extra boxes you have hanging around!

**Extra credit:** If you cut out letters, make sure you put them on your printing plate backward, so they read forwards when reversed! You can add details with pens or markers too!

**Directions here:** <https://www.artbarblog.com/printmaking-with-cardboard/>



## Method 4: Glass Plate Monotype

This project uses the removable glass from a small picture frame. The glass is cleaned off and not damaged during the craft, so it can be put right back in when you're done.

### Materials Needed

- The glass removed from a small picture frame (or other small sheet of glass)
- **Washable** felt tip markers or pens
- Spray bottle with water (or water and a paint brush)
- A small towel or washcloth
- Tape
- Normal printer paper, cardstock, or mixed media paper (98 lbs or under)
- Tennis ball or wooden mixing spoon
- Other drawing or painting materials

### Directions:

- Clean off your piece of glass carefully.
- Draw or print an image you want to print. Remember that this will be reversed in the final image.
- Tape your picture to the table. Set the piece of glass over the image.
- Trace the image with the felt tip pen. The ink should dry down quickly.
- Remove the background image and touch up the ink drawing on its own.



- Spray sheet of paper lightly with water. Use the towel to remove any excess.
- Tape down the top corner of your damp paper so it lines up with your glass plate.
- Slowly lower the damp paper down over the top of the ink.



- Using your hand, the back of the wooden spoon, or the tennis ball apply pressure all over the back of the image. Don't press down too hard. You do not want to break the glass or tear the paper. Work lightly across the whole image.
- Carefully pull up the paper and detach the tape.
- Let the image dry. Repeat with more paper!



- Optional: You can add fine lines or other textures with other art supplies after it dries to complete your artwork.

Extension: Switch out your materials! Try making prints with acrylic paint or gel watercolors; print onto cardboard, construction paper or fabric. Changing out one part of the process can create new and unexpected artistic creations!