



Smithsonian Associates

Linocut Printmaking

Instructor: Max-Karl Winkler

If you have questions about any of the materials, contact Max-Karl Winkler: telephone 301:949.8612; e-mail maxkarlwinkler@verizon.net

For Reading

There is no text assigned for this course; however, if you are the sort of person who learns readily from reading, here are two informative books. There are many others on the market, but I am not familiar with them. Keep in mind that both of these books are readily available in the used-book market.

George A Walker, *The Woodcut Artist's Handbook: Techniques and Tools of Relief Printmaking*, Firefly Books, \$29.95

Merlyn Chesterton, *Making Woodblock Prints*, Crowood Press, \$14.39

For Drawing and Designing

Linoleum block, 5 x 7 inches or larger, (tan—not grey—linoleum, mounted on presswood)

Sketchbook or other paper

Pencil and/or pen

You should create, or find somewhere, the design you wish to turn into a block print. In the first class meeting, the instructor will discuss design and drawing considerations. If you are already comfortable with drawing and designing, you might wish to use other materials than the pencil, pen, and paper listed here. If you want to find ideas, search on-line for woodcut prints or linocut prints, or visit a website like Etsy.com. Your own design, of course, will be sized to fit your block.

For Transferring the Design to the Block

Carbon paper or transfer paper

Masking tape

Xylene pen, often called a blending pen

Fixative or hairspray

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Fine-line permanent marker (Sharpie or other brand)

For Carving the Block

Linoleum block, mounted on presswood

Bench hook (or rubberized shelf liner, about the size of your block)

Gouges, veiners, chisels, knives

Buy the best carving tools you can afford; you won't regret it. There are many fine brands: Flexcut, Lyons, Ramelson, T N Lawrence, and others. If you are not familiar with woodcut tools, Flexcut gouges (1 mm and ¼ inch) are recommended. The Flexcut website lists these as *FR 800 #9 x 1mm* and *FR 323 #3 x ¼" (6mm)*. You will also need an X-acto (or similar) knife with No 11 blade.

For Printing the Block

Bristle brush, such as fingernail brush or mushroom brush

Brayer with soft rubber roller

Inking plate (glass or acrylic, 12 x 12 inches or larger)

Relief printing ink, oil-based

Spatula or palette knife

Wooden spoon or baren

Printing paper (archival, acid free, and pH neutral)

Printing frame or chase

2 Push pins

Masking tape

Apron, smock, or overshirt (optional)

For Cleanup

Paper towels

Baby oil

Rubbing alcohol

Rubber or vinyl gloves (optional)