



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

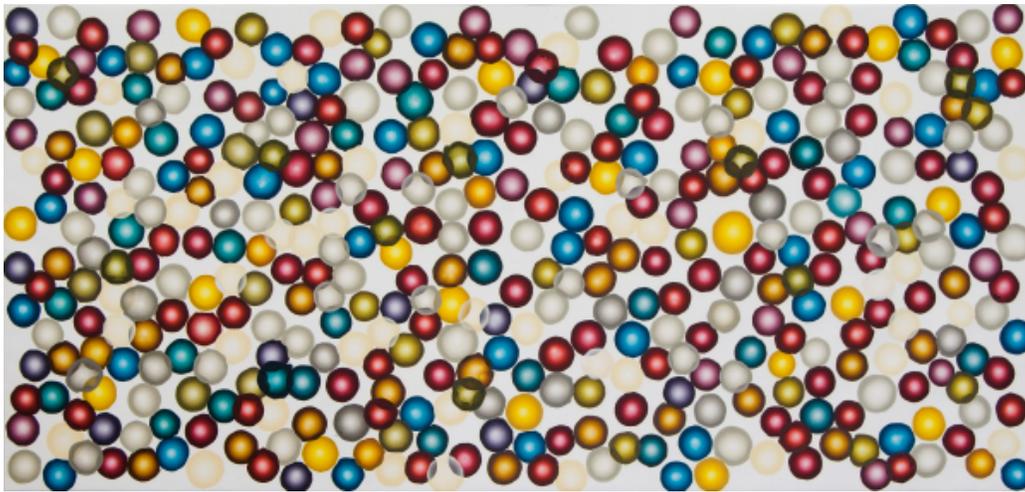
Parrish Home Art Studios

EXPERIMENTAL PRINTMAKING

DAY 1

Explore different types of lines, shapes, and textures, that can be created with items other than a paintbrush! In this lesson, you will experiment with using unusual materials to stamp and develop prints from.

First, take a moment to look at *Mysticism for Beginners* by Ross Bleckner and *Landscape* by Alexander Calder. What are some similarities between these two works? Think about the shapes, colors, and composition. Composition means the placement of elements, or objects, in a work of art. Are the shapes placed everywhere or are they focused in one section? Do they overlap?



Ross Bleckner (American, born 1949)
Mysticism for Beginners, 2001
Oil on canvas
83 x 178 inches
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
Gift of Dana and Andrew Stone



Alexander Calder (American, 1898-1976)
Landscape, 1975
Lithograph
32 1/8 x 44 inches
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
Gift of Carole and Alex Rosenberg

We will be using these artworks as inspiration for our first activity!

Materials:

Tempera or acrylic paint

Paper

Objects with a round rim (plastic cups, bottle caps, paper towel rolls)

Suggested Material: If you do not have paint at home, you may want to try this activity with magic markers. You can use your markers to create outlines by tracing around the edge of your objects.



Referencing *Landscape and Mysticism for Beginners*, we will be using simple printmaking techniques to create circular shapes. You will want to find objects with a circular rim, like a paper towel roll, bottle caps, or plastic cups. These objects will be used like a stamp, and will be dipped into paint and pressed onto paper to create an interesting design. Feel free to experiment with using different objects to create different sized circles!

Step 1: Select the objects you would like to use for printmaking.

Step 2: Pour some tempera or acrylic paint onto a plastic or durable paper plate. For this project, the paint should be a bit more fluid. If you notice that the paint appears to be too thick, mix in a small amount of water to reach the desired consistency.

Step 3: Dip your object into the paint.

Step 4: Press the object onto the paper and remove to see the print, or impression.

Tip: If the design appears to be smudged, try using less paint. You may also want to try stamping the same object multiple times before dipping it back into the paint.

Step 5: Think about how you would like to place your designs on the page. Will the whole page be covered in prints, or do you want them to be focused in a certain area?

Extension: If you want to create more dimension and shading, you can take a wet paint brush and gently pull the paint from the inner edges of the circles in towards the middle. This will create a more haloed, rounded effect, similar to the circles seen in *Mysticism for Beginners*.

DAY 2

Building off of yesterday's activity, gather some different types of objects that can be used for printmaking. These should be able to get messy and covered in paint. When selecting your objects, think about their shape and surface. Ask yourself is this object bumpy or smooth? Is it round or flat? What are some different ways you can hold or press the object to create a different design? Some suggestions you may want to try can include plastic utensils like forks, spoons, and knives and cut cardboard, sponges, and Styrofoam.

Be creative! Think of other ways to incorporate new and unusual objects. You can also try overlapping different types of designs to create layers and texture.

Suggested Material: If you do not have paint at home, you may want to try this activity with magic markers. You can use your markers to create outlines by tracing around the edge of your object.