Safety-Kut®

Portrait Paper
Cast and Print

Introduction

The art of block printing has been around for centuries, using wood as a relief surface for printing. In the early 20th century, artists discovered that linoleum was an easier and less expensive alternative to wood. In the 1980s, Nasco created Safety-Kut®, a material that is easier and safer to use than linoleum. Safety-Kut® cuts smoothly without skipping, won’t slip away while being carved, and does not crack, break, or crumble like traditional linoleum. The structure of a carved piece of work allows it to be used as a mold for a paper cast. Students can create their portrait in two different art forms using the same carved piece of Safety-Kut®.
Objectives

Students will...
- Learn printmaking and papermaking.
- Create self-portraits and learn how to translate work to a block print and create a paper cast.
- Explore and implement the processes of printmaking and papermaking.

Paper Cast Portrait Instructions

1. Create a self-portrait drawing.
2. Transfer drawing using carbon paper or the lead of a pencil. Cover the back of the drawing with graphite lead pencil. Put the drawing on top of the Safety-Kut® with the graphite-coated side down. Trace your self-portrait firmly so graphite will transfer the lines onto the Safety-Kut®.
3. Carefully cut away desired areas using the lino cutting tools.
4. When piece is finished:
   A. Create handmade paper using paper making materials and instructions provided.
   B. Press sheet firmly into Safety-Kut® using the sponge. Make sure all areas are pressed firm.
5. Let dry completely. It may take up to 24 hours to dry.
6. Remove dry cast to reveal self-portrait relief.
Block Print Self-Portrait Instructions

1. Using a brayer, apply ink over the remaining raised areas of the Safety-Kut®.
2. Lay paper over Safety-Kut®, then apply pressure rubbing with a baren to transfer image to the paper.
3. Remove paper to reveal print.
4. When the print is dry, it can be embellished by painting it with acrylic paint.

Standards

VA:Cr1.1.6a — Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.
VA:Cr2.1.6a — Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.
VA:Cn11.1.6a — Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.
Materials List

- Nasco White All Media Drawing Paper, 500 sheets, 9" x 12", 50 lb. — 9728251
- Nasco Safety-Kut® Printmaking Blocks, 8" x 10" — 9729095
- Speedball® Lino Cutter Assortment No. 1 — 9701402
- Inking Plate/Bench Hook, 7¼" x 10¼" — 2200171
- Nasco Water-Soluble Block Printing Ink, 8-oz. jar, black — 9718146(A)
- Speedball® Red Baron™ — 9724408
- Ink Mixing Tray, pkg. of 10, 6½" x 6½" — 9722405
- Subi® Block Printing Paper, 100 sheets, 9" x 12", white — 9707438
- Hard Rubber Brayer, 4" — 9705248
- KitchenAid® 5-Speed Blender — WA32185
- Arnold Grummer’s® Group Dip Large Handmolds — 9723809
- Nasco Dry Pulp — 9705486
- Yellow Plastic Tote Tray, 19¾" L x 13¾" W x 4½" D — 9716782
- Cellulose Sponges, pkg. of 4 — WA07590