

Printmaking- class description for Umbrella Arts Fall 2026

Monoprinting in Layers Using Gelli Plates

Monoprinting is a great way to explore creating depth in abstract work, exploring dynamic compositions and playing with color, pattern and texture in your work.

This class will meet 6 times to explore working with the gelli plate in different ways that include using natural and found materials to capture textures, creating shapes through stenciling and paper cut outs and some different ways to transfer drawings to the plate.

This class is open to people new to using the gelli plate and to people who've used this medium before but would like a place to practice and develop their work.

Material List

- Gelli plates -at least one but having more than one to work with is also great
- Water-soluble printmaking inks in at least 6 colors (wood block printing ink works well here)
- Brayers-at least one printmaking brayer (having more than one is a good idea here as well)
- One flat painting palette for mixing ink on or a plastic cutting board works well here
- Some brushes, different sizes
- One lithography crayon or "china markers" or good quality wax crayons for drawing
- Scissors
- Printmaking papers

- one pad of cheaper paper like newsprint or cheap sketch paper

-one stack of good quality colored paper or cardstock (no construction paper)

-one stack of your choice of specialty papers-mulberry papers/rice papers/ greeting card paper, wrapping paper, etc.

Course Outline-6 weeks

1. Exploring materials and layering through combining high contrast prints with more detailed prints, materials: gelli plates, inks, cheap and good papers, brayers, palettes and scissors
2. Explore using natural and found materials along with high contrast and detailed prints. Materials: natural and found materials, gelli plates, inks, cheap and good papers, brayers, palettes and scissors.
3. Exploring working in reverse to create depth and create interesting color changes, Materials: all materials
4. Explore different ways to transfer your sketches to the gelli plate to incorporate in your work. Materials; all materials
5. Explore combining all these techniques to create your choice of work using your specialty papers: Materials: all

Explore use of other types of printing by using stamps, block printing or other kinds of printing in combination with your gelli plate prints