Introduction to Relief Printmaking
Instructor: Natalia Slattery

Course Description
Relief printing is well-known for its beauty and versatility as a medium, from elaborate woodblock prints to deceptively simple styrofoam prints. In this class, students will explore relief printing techniques using linoleum or rubber blocks, as well as more unconventional materials. Over the course of eight weeks, we will build our skills, finishing off with a two-color reduction print. Class time consists of presentations, technique demonstrations, and ample time to work and share feedback. This class is excellent for printmaking beginners, or for more experienced artists looking to broaden their scope!

Course Outline:
1) Week 1: Introduction
   a) Presentation: Intro to Printmaking: Historic examples + process basics
   b) Review materials needed
   c) Demo + Project: Styrofoam prints

2) Week 2: Black + White Pattern Prints - Carving
   a) Warm up: Share inspiration images, use sharpie and tracing paper to establish lights + darks
   b) Presentation: Foundations of 2-D design, contemporary artists, repeating pattern creation
   c) Demo: Transferring your image, safe carving techniques
   d) Work Time: Transfer image to block + begin carving

3) Week 3: Black + White Pattern Prints - Printing
   a) Warm Up: Share and discuss designs from previous week
   b) Presentation: Print Processes: Hand vs. Press
   c) Demo: Inking + printing
   d) Work time: Printing and trouble shooting

4) Week 4: Color Reduction Prints: Carving 1st layer
   a) Warm Up: 30 minute critique of Pattern prints
   b) Presentation: Introduce reduction print process, breaking down image into multiple layers, basics of color printing; contemporary examples
   c) Work Time: Begin designing images, carving

5) Week 5: Color Reduction Prints: Printing 1st layer
   a) Warm up: Share progress from last week
   b) Presentation: Color theory + Printmaking
   c) Demo: Proofing, Printing the first layer, cleaning your block
   d) Work Time: Printing the first layer

6) Week 6: Color Reduction Prints: Carving + Printing the second layer
   a) Presentation: Contemporary printmakers
   b) Demo: Transferring and carving the second layer, Ink mixing, Registration + printing the second layer
   c) Work Time: transfer + carve second layer
7) Week 7: Finish Reduction Prints OR Collage + Sculpture in Printmaking
   (depending on progress of students)
   a) Presentation: Beyond the Print: Using sculpture and collage techniques in printmaking
   b) Demo: Using prints and additional materials to create new works, collage basics
   c) Work Time: Collage project

8) Week 8:
   a) Presentation: What is a Critique?
   b) Critique all students artwork

Supplies List:
Please feel free to ask about substitutions.
- Newsprint (18x24 inch pad)
- White Printmaking paper, 10-15 sheets (Instructor prefers Rives BFK or Bristol Board Smooth)
- Tracing paper
- Sharpie
- A few soft pencils (6B)
- Water-based block printing inks, Black + at least 1 other color (Substitution: Oil paints + vegetable oil)
- Brayer
- Baren
- Wooden spoon
- Bone folder
- Xacto Knife
- Cutting mat or cardboard to protect table
- Ruler
- Glass Palette (the glass from a picture frame works well)
- Palette knife and small selection of brushes
- Rags for cleanup
- Rubber block 5x7 inch
- Linoleum block, 9x12 inch
- Carving Tools (This is a good tool for beginners, the instructor uses this set.)
- Thin styrofoam (the kind that is used for meat or produce packaging)