

Scraperboard/Scratchboard Art

Artist inspiration for this activity comes from printmakers:

Colin See-Paynton Artist currently living and working in Wales

(<http://see-paynton.co.uk/index.html>)

Gertrude Hermes (1901-1983, English)

Mc Escher (1898-1972, Dutch)

(Please note the activity outlined below is not printmaking but it creates an effect similar to the woodcut technique in one off artworks)

Materials:

Black and white Scratchboards and scraper

Pencil, eraser, paper

Method:

Spend some time designing your scratchboard.

The Scratchboards normally come in packs of more than one and so it is a good idea to use one of them, or half of one, to practise drawing lines with the scraper, particularly curved lines and round shapes. Also practise building up areas of light by overlapping lines called cross-hatching.

Consider:

Composition – consider where you place the main shapes in your picture. Think about the mood you want to create. To create a calm mood perhaps use lots of horizontal shapes, to create a dynamic image use diagonal shapes and lines that guide your eye to each of the areas of interest in the picture.

Perspective – think about the scale of the objects you can be quite playful with this by making shapes that are normally small next to shapes that are normally big.

Mark-making – with scratchboards you must draw in the light by making overlapping lines. Think about the direction of these to suggest the form of the object you are describing. This can be done with pattern making within the highlight areas for example, curved lines to describe curved forms.

Transferring your design:

You can draw your design with a pencil however it is difficult to see pencil lines on the black surface. I find if you have drawn your design on paper the same size as the scratchboard you can mark in the main lines with light scratches and draw it on freehand from there.

Remember when you fill in the detail you are drawing in the light not the dark areas!

Adding colour:

when you use the white scratchboards, you can add areas of colour with inks. Again, I would experiment with this first on your tester board. Before working on top of a successful artwork!