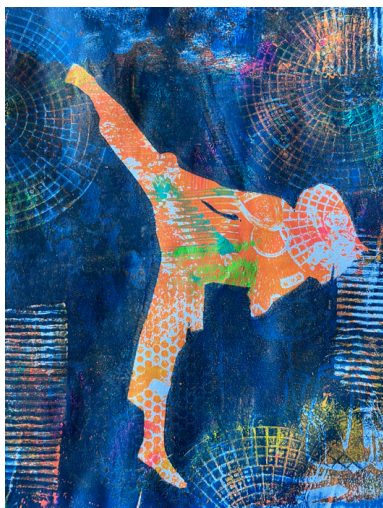




Positive/Negative Space Action Portraits



Objective: Students will experiment with color, texture and patterns while printing on Gel Press® using a variety of tools and methods. They will create a figure using positive space to mask the negative shape.

Materials:

- Gel Press® plate
- White 80lb. drawing paper
- Acrylic paints or printing inks
- Paint brushes, plastic cards, brayers, and sponges
- A variety of texture tools, stencils, stamps and found objects.
- Scissors
- Acetate sheet
- Permanent ink marker
- Photograph of themselves, magazine image, or other figure in an action pose.

Pre-Lesson:

- Look at images of people in motion and discuss which poses are most dynamic and why.
- Discuss how they could create an action photo and take some images using a phone or other device.

National Core Arts Standards for the Visual Arts:

VA:Cr1.1.6a: Combine concepts collaboratively to generate innovative ideas for creating art.

VA:Cr1.2.6a: Formulate an artistic investigation of personally relevant content for creating art.

VA:Cn10.1.6a: Generate a collection of ideas reflecting current interests and concerns that could be investigated in art making.

VA:Cr2.1.6a: Demonstrate openness in trying new ideas, materials, methods, and approaches in making works of art and design.

VA:Re.7.2.8a: Compare and contrast contexts and media in which viewers encounter images that influence ideas, emotions, and actions.

Preparation:

- Set up printing stations at tables. Using trays for Gel Press® plates or a placemat for paints and plate to be set up helps minimize mess.
- Prepare paint in one location.

Tip: Have students choose similar colors for the first print and then a contrasting or black color for the 2nd print. Color choices should be planned before all prints are started to create unity in the final piece.

- Students should prepare their stencils and other cut shapes ahead of time.
- Have paint brushes, stamps, brayers, and other tools in a bin at tables.



Step 1: Cutting Positive Space

- After viewing images of people in action, students will photograph each other, look for images in magazines or online to use as inspiration.
- Once, image is printed, students will place a piece of acetate over the image and draw the outline of the figure with a permanent marker. Do not forget to outline the inside negative space as well (such as the space between an arm that is bent).
- Have students cut out the image. Use pair of scissors or Exacto blade to cut all shapes.



- Use a brayer to add a darker, contrasting color or black over entire **Gel Press®** plate.
 - Place cut out figure on the Gel plate
 - Place same paper over the image and rub.
 - Pull the print.
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- Students can repeat the process by reusing the figure, after cleaning it, to create a second print if there is time.

Step 2: Printing

- Students will be making several prints today. Have them go to the paint station to get a tray of 2-4 colors (styrofoam or cafeteria trays work great for this but paper plates can also be used). Paint brushes will be used to apply dollops of paint to the **Gel Press®** plates.
- Students can experiment with composition, layers and textures. Roll one color onto the plate with a brayer, add texture or stamp into the color.
- Have them place a paper, name side up, onto the plate and rub. Pull the print.

