



# RELIEF PRINTING FROM HOME

ART KIT + GUIDEBOOK

*By Teaching Artist Shannon Cleere*





## **RELIEF PRINTING FROM HOME ART KIT by Shannon Cleere**

### **Our Mission**

Path with Art fosters the restoration of individuals, groups, and society from the effects of trauma through arts engagement and community-building. Path with Art is driven by our vision: A world where arts engagement is recognized as transformative—connecting the individual with self, the self with community, and communities with society. In this world, the power of arts engagement is available for all. Welcome to our creative community!

### **What is this kit about?**

Relief printmaking from home is fun and easy! This kit provides everything you need to make small relief prints: rubber block, carving tools, water-based ink, and paper. One carved block can make multiple prints: create your own stationery, postcards, or decorative paper! Relief printmaking is an ideal introduction to the art form: easy to do at home and does not require special equipment like a printing press. Explore one of the earliest forms of printed communication right from the comfort of your own home!

### **What's in this kit?**

- 1 rubber printing block (you can use both sides)
- 1 brayer, or roller, for rolling and applying ink
- 1 tube of water based printmaking ink
- 1 wood handle
- 2 carving tools
- Paper

### **Additional supplies that are helpful:**

- Pencil
- Large spoon

# RELIEF PRINTING EXAMPLES



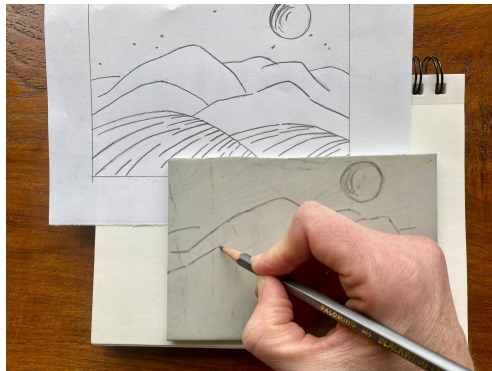
I love to make prints of common objects that I use and look at everyday. Sometimes I make prints of places or scenes that I photograph. Other times I just make something up from my imagination!

# STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS / Project How-To



## **Step 1 -**

Relief printmaking starts with a drawing. If you're new to relief printmaking you might want to start with a simple drawing. Here I will work from a drawing I made in my sketchbook.



## **Step 2 -**

You can draw directly onto the rubber printing block with a pencil. Copy your drawing onto the block, or you can also draw directly from your imagination! (Just remember, when you make prints from a block, the resulting print will be flipped, appearing like a mirror image of the original drawing.)



## **Step 3 -**

Now you are ready to start carving your block! Provided are two carving tips of different sizes. One will carve away thin, fine lines. It's great for detail work. The other tip is a little bigger and good for removing larger areas of rubber.

Something to note: you are carving away what will NOT appear in the print. What you carve away will not pick up any ink, and will instead reveal the color of the paper once printed.



#### **Step 4 –**

SAFETY NOTE: always carve away from your body!

Position the hand that is holding the block behind the hand that is holding the carving tool. The carving tool can slip out from under you and you want to make sure you don't accidentally poke yourself with its sharp tip!

Push the carving tool down and forward with even pressure.



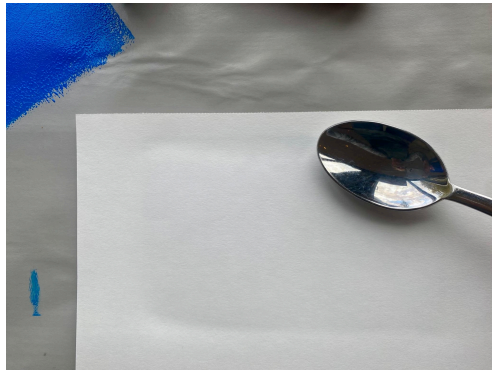
#### **Step 5 –**

The next step is inking the block. Roll out a small amount of ink on a flat surface. If you don't have a paint palette, a plastic cutting board or a plate work great for this! Move the roller back and forth across the ink, spreading it out and making sure you cover the roller with an even, thin layer of ink.



#### **Step 6 –**

Roll the ink across your carved block in long, even strokes. Cover your block with a thin layer of ink, changing the direction of the roller for a more even application.



### **Step 7 –**

Using the paper provided, gently place it on top of the block. Take a large spoon and rub the back of the paper evenly with light pressure. You can also rub with your hands - just make sure you wash any ink of your hands first!



### **Step 8 –**

Now for the fun part: peel back the paper to reveal the print! The result is always a bit of a surprise, which is one of the things that make printmaking so fun! Before adding more ink, place another piece of paper on the block to make a “ghost print.” This print will look different then the first because there won’t be as much ink on the block.



### **Step 9 –**

You can make MANY prints, you just need to roll more ink onto the block once it runs out. When you’re done you can wash off your block with water and use it again another day. You can experiment printing on paper of different colors! You can also carve another drawing onto the other side of the rubber printing block. Enjoy!

## OPEN STUDIO

Weekly on Zoom  
Mondays, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

### *Zoom information:*

Meeting ID: 948 7272 9885  
Passcode: path  
Call in by phone: +1-253-215-8782, 948 7272  
9885#

*This is a Drop In class, no prior registration is necessary*



Open Studio is a supportive space to work on individual creative projects, share artwork, and connect with peers. Creative Mentors are available for one-on-one support. Bring out your paints, pencils, art kits, or whatever supplies you have on hand and let's make some art together!

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## Art Transforms

*Path with Art's Community Blog*

## ART TRANSFORMS COMMUNITY BLOG

We would love to see what you have created! You can take a picture of your artwork and submit it to our community blog, Art Transforms.

All who are part of the Path with Art community are welcome and invited to contribute to the Art Transforms community blog! Check it out: <https://arttransforms.blog>

For instructions on how to contribute and submission guidelines, visit <https://arttransforms.blog/submissions/>

If you don't have access to the internet, contact [blog@pathwithart.org](mailto:blog@pathwithart.org) or call 206-601-7112 to arrange another submission option.

## Seattle Area Resources for Food, Clothing, Shelter + Services

<https://www.emeraldcityresourceguide.org/>

### Crisis Resources

**24 Hour Crisis Line:** 866-4-CRISIS (866-427-4747)

**King County 2-1-1:** 2-1-1

**WA Recovery Helpline:** 866-789-1511

**Mobile Crisis Team:** 206-245-3073

**SPD Crisis Intervention Team (CIT):** 911 (*Ask for CIT trained officer*)

**AA 24 Hour Helpline:** 206-587-2838

**Seattle Metro Trip Planning:** 206-553-3000

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 988 or 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

*This is a crisis hotline that can help with many issues, not just suicide. For example, anyone who feels sad, hopeless, or suicidal; family and friends who are concerned about a loved one; or anyone interested in mental health treatment referrals can call the Lifeline. Callers are connected with a professional nearby who will talk with them about what they are feeling or concerns for other family and friends. Call the toll-free Lifeline, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.*

**Crisis Text Line Text “MHFA” to 741741**

*Available 24/7, 365 days a year, this organization helps people with mental health challenges by connecting callers with trained crisis volunteers who will provide confidential advice, support, and referrals if needed. Lifeline Crisis Chat [www.crisischat.org](http://www.crisischat.org) Visit [www.crisischat.org](http://www.crisischat.org) to chat online with crisis centers around the United States.*

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA)**

**Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746

*SAMHSA’s Disaster Distress Helpline provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters:*

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>