
Printing & Watercolour

Making “printing stamps” for watercolour effects “trees, grasses, rocks”

by Jane - 2 July 2015

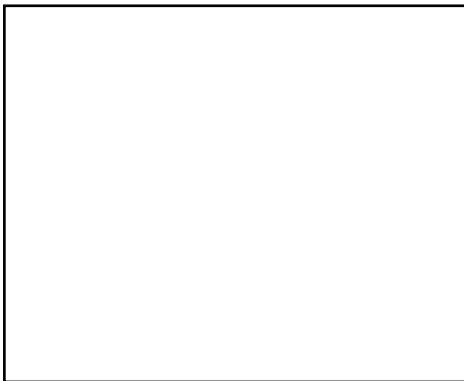


Materials for the project

- small squares of card (illustration board is best) or you may like to try other card such as mount board (smooth side would be best)
- craft knife
- strips of card
- tape
- pointed object to score the card (knitting needle?) or similar
- brushes, watercolour and paper for the painting

Inspired by watercolour artist Nita Engle and her atmospheric paintings we look at printing using card in class.

Printmaking can work well if you experiment a little. Use printmaking as part of a painting, areas such as grasses, rocks or trees may work well using a few simple printing techniques



Cut a piece of card 2 x 3" or 3 x 3" and then a strip of small card to paste on the back with the tape (a type of handle)

This is your printing block

Take the sharp object and score your subject in on the other side i.e. grasses, tree and branches

Printing

Using a largish brush load with your chosen colour and cover the scored card side. Using the handle position the card onto the watercolour paper. Best to practice first!

You should have a print of what you have scored into the card.... don't forget your image will be in reverse!

You may need to get the stamp going by having a few dummy runs before committing to the painting. Once you have used the stamp, reload with paint and try again. This can be the basis for further techniques such as spraying upwards (from a tree line say) to create a soft sky as shown in her picture above.

You don't need to score into the card necessarily, try plain. The card needs to be shiny or laminated to get an interesting mix of pattern and colours

HAVE FUN WITH IT!

HOW TO MAKE A WATERCOLOR PAINT ITSELF,
EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUES FOR ACHIEVING
REALISTIC EFFECTS, NITA ENGLE