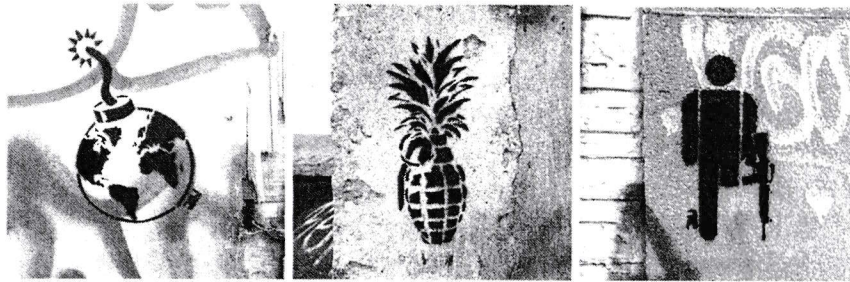


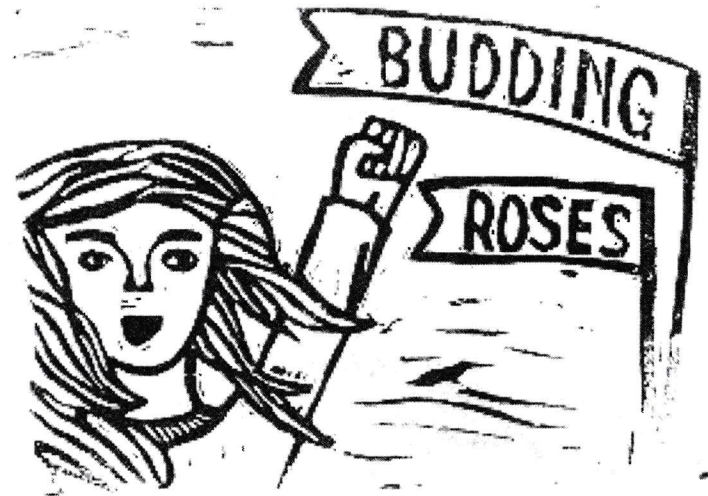
El Alce y el Carro woodcut print by Mazatl



Anti-war stencil graffiti by DJ LU



End All Wars blockprint by a3bcollective



D.I.Y. STENCILS & BLOCKPRINTS

For artists with a message to share, stencils and blockprints can be a great way to spread your art as wide as possible. With one stencil or blockprint you can make hundreds of copies of your image using just a bit of paint. Using these basic skills you decorate all the posters, stickers, t-shirts, walls, and streets you want!

BLOCKPRINTING

Blockprinting involves carving a design into wood, linoleum, or other materials and using ink or paint to stamp the design onto a piece of paper. In your kit you have materials to make a simple blockprint:

- Foam printing plates (styrofoam trays also work)
 - Tempera paint
 - Paint brush
 - Dull pencil or other objects for carving
- 1) Lightly draw your design on a piece of foam (you can cut your foam into smaller pieces too). Your image will be reversed when you make the block print, so if you are writing letters they need to be backwards.
 - 2) Use the dull pencil to push grooves into the foam along the lines you drew. Don't rip the foam by pressing too hard, you just need a small groove. These grooved lines will be white on your final print and the surrounding area will be colored with paint.
 - 3) Use a paint brush to spread a thin layer of paint on the carved side of your foam piece.
 - 4) While the paint is still moist, press the painted side of the foam down on a sheet of paper. Press the foam firmly and evenly onto the paper without moving it.
 - 5) Peel the foam off the paper and look at your print! You can experiment by adding more paint, changing how you press down the foam, or by carving more lines into the foam (but you can't erase lines once you carve them!)
 - 6) You can reuse your print over and over. If you want to save it for later make sure you wash off the paint with water and store it in a place where it won't get bent or dented.

STENCILS

Stencils involve carving a sheet of paper, plastic or other material with a design and then spraying or rolling paint over it onto another surface. Often spray paint is used, but we have some supplies you can use to practice at home:

- Cardstock
- Tempera paint
- Spray bottle

- 1) Draw a design on your sheet of cardstock. Lines and shapes that need color should be fairly thick to make sure paint gets through. Try not to leave any islands (parts of white completely surrounded by color) leave strips of white to connect across so the stencil is stronger.

STENCIL

- 2) Using scissors or an exacto knife cut out the color pieces of the stencil. Remember to not cut out the connecting strips!
- 3) Mix some tempera paint and water in the spray bottle. Start with a little paint, it shouldn't take much.
- 4) Place the stencil on a piece of paper and lay it on a flat surface. If the stencil is sticking up off the paper you can use small objects like rocks to weigh it down.
- 5) Spray the paint across the stencil design. Try to keep a light spray that doesn't leave big drops on the paper. Big drops of liquid can leak under your stencil.
- 6) Pull off the cardstock once it is dry and see how you did! You can tweak your stencil or spray technique to change how it looks.