



## Embossed Collagraph

Lesson plan and Artwork by Edwin Leary, School Specialty Art Consultant, Florida



Lesson Plan  
Grades 9-12, AP, College  
Sax Lesson Plans, Art  
Jack Richeson

### Description

A collagraph is a relief print of a collage. Picasso, Georges Braque and Moholy-Nagy explored and expanded collagraphic techniques extensively in the 1930s. In a collagraph, the student artist employs various materials and "crossover" processes to layer a printing plate with shapes and found items, or with lines and textures built with 3-D modeling material. Alternatively, the student artist can print a collagraph on a painted sheet. In each case, the print "pulled" has an embossed appearance and dimensionality that varies with the media used.

### Objectives

Students will develop competence in innovative printmaking. Students will hone critical thinking skills by exploring, evaluating and synthesizing various media.

### Supplies Needed

Jack Richeson® Baby Press  
404471

Sizing Catcher Blanket, 12" x 26" x 1/16"  
407838

Cushion Blanket, 12" x 26" x 1/4"  
407834

Pusher Blanket, 12" x 26" x 1/8"  
407841

Newsboard, 24-pack, 9" x 12"  
085564

Chipboard, 10-ply, 10-pack, 19" x 26"  
456857

Punjab Watercolor Paper, 100 lb., 25-pack, 9" x 12"  
1289220

Rives BFK Paper, 120 lb., 22" x 30"  
238047

Canson-Montval® Watercolor Pad, 140 lb., 12 sheets, 9" x 12"  
411415

School Smart® White Glue, 48-count case, 4 oz. bottles  
1354285

Resources Singular Impressions: Art of Monotype, min. video  
246208

## Standards

Content Standard #1: Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes  
Content Standard #2: Using knowledge of structures and functions

## Instructions

### Teacher preparation:

Gather collagraph resources to share with students.

### Step 1

Discuss the steps of the collagraphic process, including collage-making, material selection, printmaking terms and press usage.

### Step 2

At an art museum or library, research artists that used the collagraphic process.

### Step 3

Create the collage on a newsboard or chipboard base plate with imaging and/or 3-D modeling materials as desired:

Adhere imaging materials to the base plate with white glue. Use burlap, textured cloth and papers, doilies, corrugated cardboard, dried leaves, thin tree bark, wood, plastic, embossed metals and the like. Allow ample drying time when layering.

Apply 3-D modeling materials to the base plate. Use modeling paste, papier-maché, thick glue, acrylic paints and the like. Inscribe them with a comb or other implement if desired.

### Step 4

Allow collage to dry completely.

### Step 5

Seal the collage with thinned Gesso.

### Step 6

Prepare the press, printmaking blankets, water tray and blotter sheets.

### Step 7

Select printmaking paper. Use 60 to 90 pound white drawing paper for shallow embossing, or 100 pound Punjab Watercolor Paper or 120 pound Rives BFK paper for deep embossing.

### Step 8

Soak paper in the water tray for five to 10 minutes to remove sizing and moisten it for embossing. Remove and blot with blotter or drawing paper.

### Step 9

Place collage plate on press bed and layer the paper, sizing catcher blanket, cushion blanket and pusher blanket over the plate.

### Step 10

Through trial and error, set the distance between the press roller and the plate. Start by closing the gap to just inside the pusher blanket.

### Step 11

Roll the press bed through the press in one direction, reversing direction and rolling again if desired.

### Step 12

Check the print and adjust pressure as necessary. Torn paper indicates excessive pressure; faint embossing indicates insufficient pressure.

### Step 13

Dry the print.

### Step 14

Curate print with a pencil. Write the artist's name and date at the lower right and the title and print number (i.e., 5/10 for the fifth print of 10) at the lower left.

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