

Art – Year 5 – Making Monotypes

Topic Overview

In this unit, we explore the process of making monotypes. We will explore the work of an artist who uses monotypes to build sculptures and installations. Inspired by poetry, we will use sketchbooks to collect ideas, test methods, and explore colour, line and mark making.

Key Knowledge

Monotype is a style of printmaking where you make one unique print by pressing paper onto an inked surface. Each monotype is special because you cannot make the exact same print again. The marks you make on the plate are transferred onto the paper, but they often look different once printed, which makes the process exciting and surprising. Artists use monotypes to explore texture, line, shape, and colour in new ways. You can make marks with brushes, pencils, sticks, or even your fingers, and each tool creates a different effect. Layers can be built up by adding more ink, overlapping shapes, or combining collage and paint with the print. Monotypes can be inspired by poems, stories, or pictures, turning words and ideas into visual images. Sketchbooks are important for testing ideas, practising marks, and collecting inspiration before making a final print. The process encourages experimentation, because even mistakes or smudges can add interesting textures to the artwork. Looking at other artists who use monotypes helps to see how the technique can be used in large or imaginative ways. Sharing and talking about prints helps to understand what worked well and what you might try differently next time. Monotype connects to other subjects too, like English when you use poetry for inspiration, or history when you use themes.

Important Vocabulary

Monotype	A type of printmaking where only one unique image is made by pressing ink from a plate.
Evoke	To bring out feelings, ideas, or memories through art.
Response	What a viewer thinks, feels, or says after looking at artwork.
Translate	To change words, ideas, or images into another form of expression, such as turning a story into a painting.
Mood	The feeling or atmosphere created in an artwork.
Sense	The way we experience art through sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.
Layer	Part of an artwork placed over or under another to build up depth or texture.
Combine	Join materials, colours, or techniques together.
Multi-media	Using more than one type of media such as paint, collage, photography, or sound, in a single piece.
Reflect	To think carefully about your own art or someone else's.
Respond	To reply or react to an artwork through words, actions, or another piece of art.
Articulate	To express ideas clearly in words or images.
Feedback	Comments given to help improve or understand art.
Crit	A critique, which means giving opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of an artwork.
Similarities	The ways in which two artworks or styles are alike.
Differences	The ways in which two artworks or styles are not the same.

Assessment

I understand what a Monotype is and see how artists use monotypes in their work. I can share my response to their work.	I study drawings made by other artists and identify marks they have used in their drawings. I use my sketchbook to collect marks to use later.	I listen to a piece of poetry and think about how the piece evokes colours, lines, shapes, and words in my head. I can use these things to create imagery which captures the mood of the piece of poetry.	I use my mark making skills to create monotypes, combining the process with painting and collage.
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