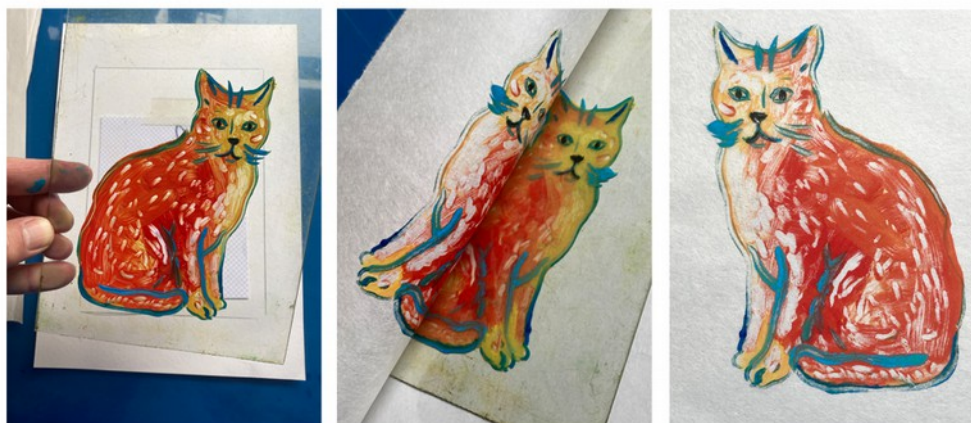


Monotype – Painting Technique

Monotype is so called because the process of working with inks on a blank plate produces a **one-off print**. This is an extremely flexible and free way to make original prints. At its most basic it is the technique of manipulating inks on a clear, flat surface from which to take a print.



It is important to note that the amount of ink used on the printable surface will have a direct effect on the pressure needed when printing. For example applying the ink very thickly to the plate like an oil painting will result in a splurge if pressed too heavily so **always begin with light hand pressure** and check how it is printing by lifting a corner of the paper without removing it completely. **A thick layer of ink applied to the plate will need to a light hand pressure** whereas thin washes and a **light layer of rolled ink will need higher pressure with a wooden spoon**.

What you will need:



- Monotype plates (clear acrylic sheet or Gel plate)
- Caligo Safewash Relief Printing Inks including black and white
- Painting palette
- A collection of water colour brushes
- A small amount of white spirit or soapy water in a jar.

- Japanese paper (Kozo) or light weight printer paper
- Wooden spoon
- Newsprint
- Cotton buds/wet wipes
- A bold line drawing
- Registration frame

Preparation:

1. Place a drawing or photo inside the registration frame and the monotype plate over that.
2. Make a painting palette using small dabs of coloured inks on a spare monotype plate.
3. Mix colours using a brush and small amounts of solvent (white spirit) to loosen the inks for application by brush.
4. Remove mistakes or make adjustments and extra marks using the cotton buds/wet wipes.
5. In some areas of the image ink can be painted in.
6. In some areas of the image ink can be removed or drawn into.
7. Keep checking the plate by taking it out of the registration frame to view it without the “key” drawing behind it.

Printing:

1. Lay a **clean sheet of newsprint** down on a flat surface.
2. Remove the plate from the registration frame and place it **ink side up** on top of the paper.
3. Centre the printing paper over the image.

4. Place another piece of newsprint over the back of the paper and **press with your hands**.
5. If ink has been applied very thickly **check how it is printing** by carefully peeling back one corner. Be sure to keep one hand over the back of the paper/plate whilst checking the quality of the print as accidentally moving or removing the paper from the plate before the print has been properly pressed will mean that further printing may result in a doubling effect.



6. If the print is to your satisfaction remove the paper completely. If you judge that it needs more pressure overall or in certain areas replace the corner and re apply pressure with hands or wooden spoon.
7. Further layers of painted or rolled on ink can be over-printed by cleaning the plate and replacing it into the registration frame for further work.
8. Turn the new painted layer upside down in order to register it to the print.
9. Carefully slide the plate and print together to the edge of the table before flipping it over and printing as before.

Notes on materials:

- Use Caligo Safewash Relief printing inks. These inks are high quality and **soap/water washable**.
- Kozo paper is a light weight **Japanese paper made for hand printing**. In general terms it is much easier to print by hand onto the lightest weight paper available.
- **Clear acrylic sheets** have been used for these notes but **Gel Plates** are also very good for this process.

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