

Three Colour Reduction Monotype



Any combination of colours may be layered together in this 3 plate technique. That said, using the process colours of **cyan, magenta and yellow** will result in the full spectrum of colours as each is laid over another. **Good registration is essential** in order to combine 3 plates into a single print.

What you will need:



- Printing inks and extender
- Palette knives
- Japanese tissue paper (Kozo)
- Registration frame mount card
- Masking tape
- Bold line drawing
- Wet wipes
- Identical size clear acrylic plates x3
- Rollers x 3
- Lolly or match sticks
- Cotton buds
- Glass for rolling ink onto
- Newsprint
- Wooden spoon

Making a registration frame:



1. Cut 2 pieces of mount card 2-3 inches larger than the monotype plate.
2. Trace the size of the plate in the centre of one of the pieces of card and cut out a window.
3. Place the 2 pieces of card together. With masking tape, attach one side to make a hinge.

Ink preparation:



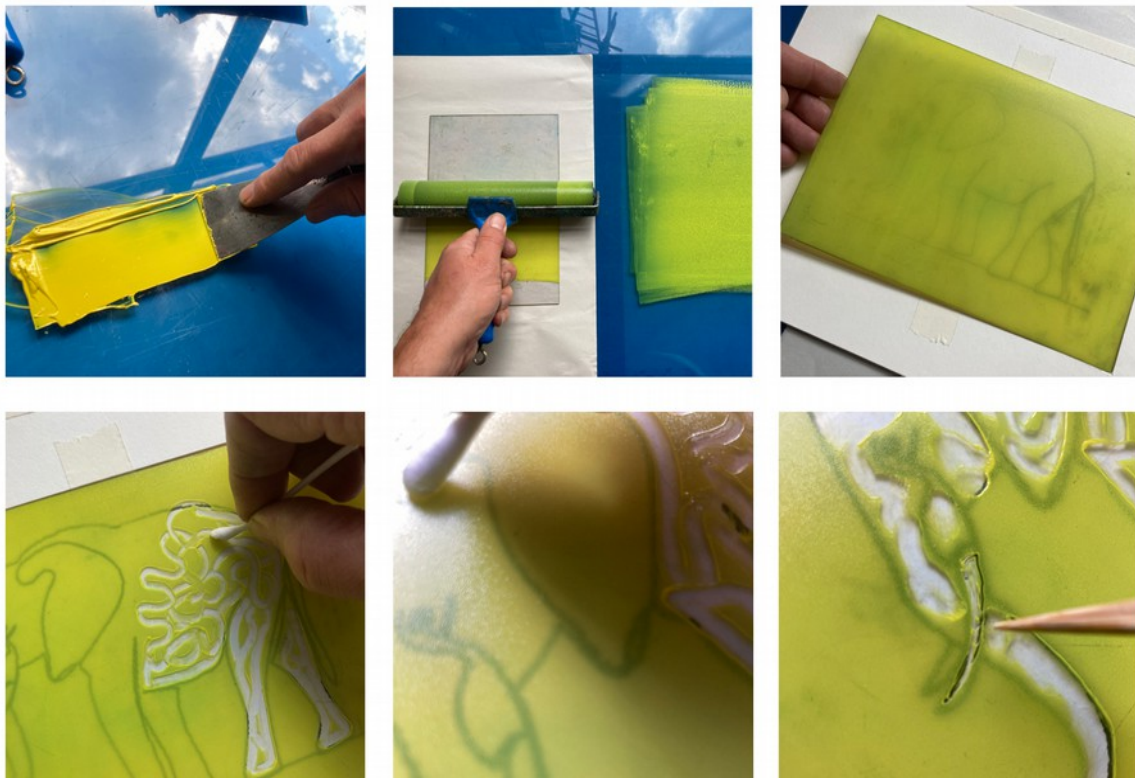
1. Mix each colour **50:60 ratio colour to extender** to make more transparent.
2. Roll out on glass.

Registration:



1. Use a **bold line drawing** to function as the master on which each colour plate is based. (If the drawing is too faint it may not be visible beneath the rolled out ink).
2. Position the drawing inside the registration frame and tape it in place at the centre of each side.

Plate making:



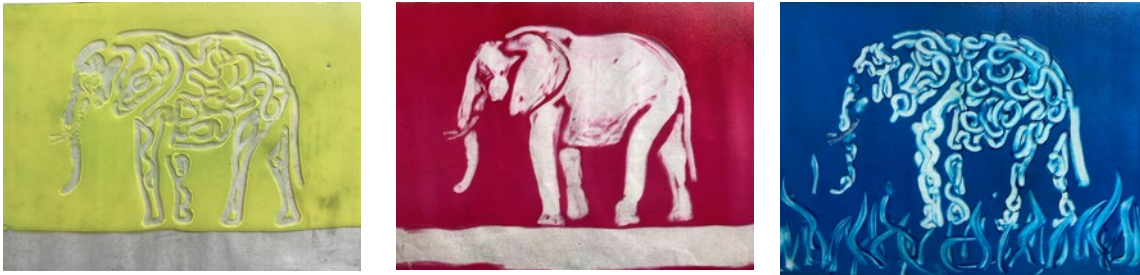
1. Apply rolled ink to the plates evenly, one colour for each plate.
2. **Starting with the yellow**, place the inked plate over the drawing, held within the window.
3. Use the sticks, wet wipes or cotton buds to remove ink from areas of the plate corresponding to the master drawing beneath.



4. Repeat this for each colour. As the darkest toned of the colours, cyan may be used as the “key” plate so give some attention to details or significant areas of the image on this layer.

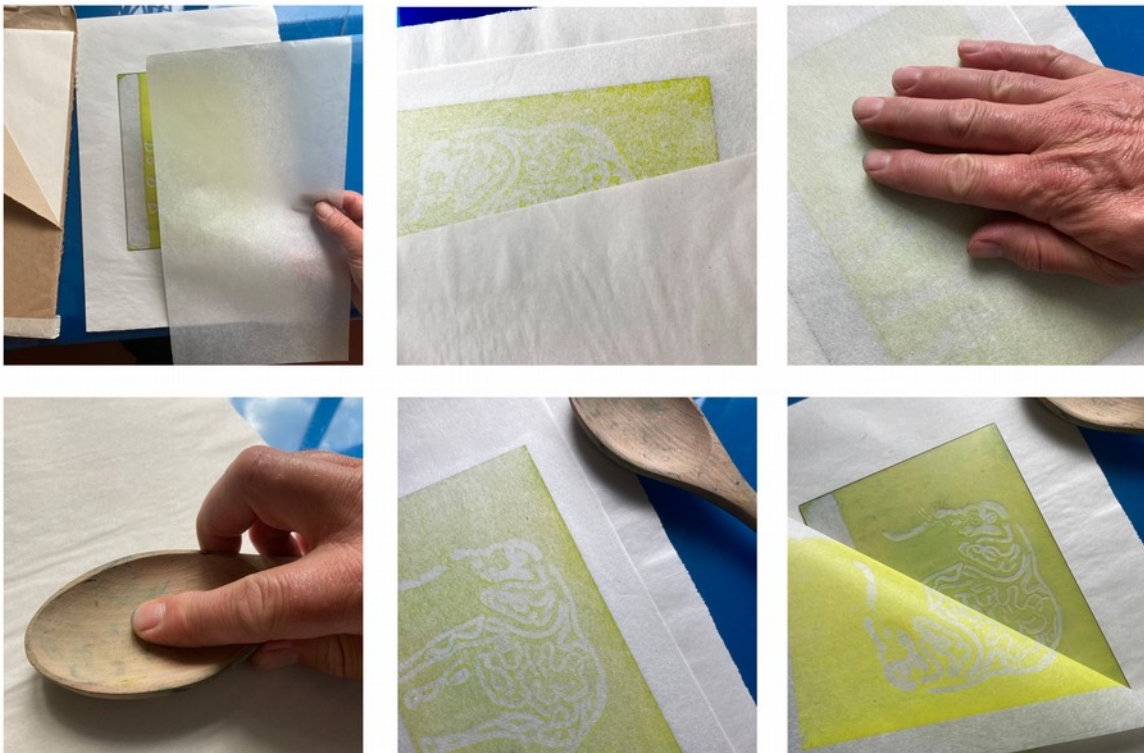


- Assemble the 3 plates together on a clean surface ready for printing.

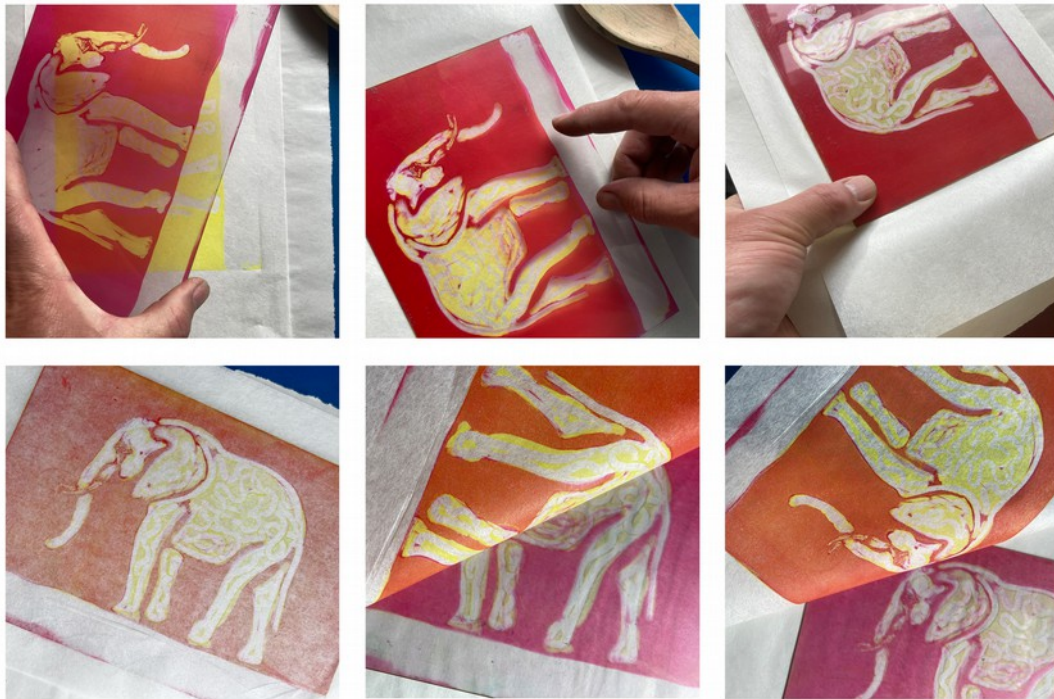


- Think about how the colours will interact with each other when overlaid. Eg. blue over yellow results in green. All 3 colours, blue over red over yellow will result in the darkest colour tone possible. Compare the 3 plates to each other as they progress to estimate how they will eventually interact.

Printing:



- Print the plates lightest tones first: **Yellow > Magenta > Cyan**
- Lay a clean sheet of newsprint down on a flat surface.
- Remove the first plate from the registration frame and place it on top facing up.
- Centre the Kozo paper over the image.
- Place another piece of newsprint over the back of the Kozo paper and press with your hands to secure the paper to the ink.
- Use the bottom of a wooden spoon to apply **consistent pressure** evenly to the back of the print.



7. Separate the paper from the plate by carefully peeling it away.
8. Place the print face up on another clean sheet of newsprint.
9. Take the red plate and holding it from its edges **turn it upside down**
10. Carefully lay the plate on top of the print, positioning first a corner then a side, then the whole. At this stage it is possible to position the plate above the print to check that each image matches.
11. Hand printing requires **pressure to be applied to the back of the print**, so carefully slide paper and plate to the edge of the table and holding both sides to avoid any movement, flip it over to be paper side up.





Ghost print



Original

12. Cover with newsprint and apply pressure with hands and wooden spoon.
13. Repeat for cyan plate.
14. Make a **“ghost print”** by printing each plate again to another piece of Kozo paper.
15. Leave prints for a day or 2 to dry.

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.

Cardiff Print Workshop

Chapter Arts Centre - Market House - Market Road – Cardiff – CF5 1QE

www.cardiffprintworkshop.co.uk