



Developed with Angie Szabo

Volume 120 | Gr. 6-12  
Time: 7-9 class periods

# Plexiglass drypoint

## Memory project



### VA:Cr1.2.6a

Formulate an artistic investigation of personally relevant content for creating art.

### VA:Cr1.2.11a

Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan works of art and design.

### VA:Cr2.1.111a

Experiment, plan, and make multiple works of art and design that explore a personally meaningful theme, idea, or concept.

### VA:Cr2.3.8a

Select, organize, and design images and words to make visually clear and compelling presentations.

### VA:Cr3.1.6a

Reflect on whether personal artwork conveys the intended meaning and revise accordingly.

### VA:Cn11.1.6a

Analyze how art reflects changing times, traditions, resources, and cultural uses.

### VA:Cn10.1.1a

Identify times, places, and reasons by which students make art outside of school.

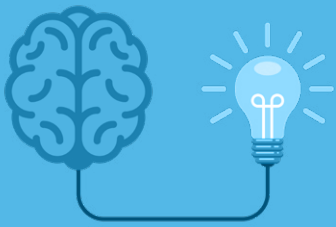
### VA:Cn10.1.11a

Utilize inquiry methods of observation, research, and experimentation to explore unfamiliar subjects through art-making.

## Objectives

*Students will be able to...*

- Create a series of plexiglass drypoint prints that explore their personal memories using both object and place
- Create an interesting composition with a clear and well-positioned focal point and a background that adds to the composition and content of the finished piece.
- Use a variety of mark-making techniques (hatching, cross-hatching, scumbling) to build value into their plate
- Pull a series of successful prints using the dry-point print-making process
- Utilize a variety of pre- and post-printmaking processes to create a diverse set of finished prints



**Project Progression:** Students will contemplate a memory that carries a strong emotion and identify an object and a place/space that represent that memory. They will juxtapose these two to create a composition that explores that memory. Students can use a photo of their memory or create a sketch in their sketch book.

**Materials needed:** Plexiglass plates, drypoint etching tools, sketch paper cut to the same size as the plexiglass plate, small bin for water (large enough to hold printing paper), watercolor paper for printing cut an inch larger in each dimension than the plexiglass plate, mat or tag board scraps cut into strips about 1" x 3", paper towels, cotton swabs (optional), cotton pads (Handi-Pads by Webriil® are great for this), printing press.

**Step one:** Complete the photography OR sketchbook assignment above.

**Step two:** Practice transferring images onto old plexi with the new tools.

**Tip:** Save the used plates from previous classes for students to practice on.

**Step three:** Transfer the composition onto the plexi plate by putting the sketch or photo under the plexi. Use tape to create a hinge along the top edge of the sketch and plexi. This allows students to check their progress without confusing their alignment.



**Tip:** Place a piece of black paper behind the plexi to see the incised lines easier.



**Step four:** Use a drypoint etching tool to incise the contours of the piece onto the plexiglass. Hold the tool as you would a pencil and apply firm pressure. Once the contour lines are complete, use hatching, cross-hatching and scumbling to create varied values and textures in the plate. Vary your pressure to vary the depth of the mark.

**Tip:** It is easier to see the incised lines if you place a piece of black paper behind the plexi.

**Step five:** Create a Test Print (see print-making process at right). Analyze the print for areas in need of improvement, adjust drypoint plate accordingly and then begin printing your series of prints.

**Step six:** Straight prints with black and/or colored inks.

*Students will design a piece of art based upon a memory, then use it to execute a series of successful drypoint prints with plexiglass and a variety of print-making processes.*

**Step seven:** (optional): Experimental Prints. Students will experiment with their prints in a variety of the following ways:

**Spot Coloring in Ink** (adding different ink colors to specific sections to colorize their piece)

**Embossing** (cutting mat board into specific shapes and laying on top of plate to emboss paper)

**Masking** (use paper or tape to mask off certain sections of the print)

**Double Print** (print the image twice in two different colors on the same sheet of paper)

**Printing Surface** (print on text, collage or other materials)

**Watercolor** (students will use watercolor to paint their print after it dries)

**Colored Pencils** (students will use colored pencil to add color to their print after it dries)

**Step eight:** Edition and sign all prints.

## Printmaking steps

### Materials needed:

Small bin for water (large enough to hold printing paper), watercolor paper for printing, mat or tag board scraps cut into strips about 1" x 3", paper towels, cotton swabs (optional), cotton pads (Handi-Pads by Webril® are great for this), printing press

### Steps:

- 1: Place a clean piece of printing paper into water bin.
- 2: Use mat board scrap to spread a thin ink layer on plate.
- 3: Use cotton square, paper towel and/or cotton swabs to gently remove surface ink using small circular motions.  
\*Clean hands after this step!
- 4: Remove paper from water and gently blot dry between paper towels.
- 5: Place paper towel on top blanket on press, place plexiglass plate on top of the paper towel with ink side up.
- 6: Gently place damp printing paper over plate.
- 7: Roll paper and plate through printing press.
- 8: Remove and number print. Allow to dry.
- 9: Wash plate.
- 10: Repeat steps 1-10.





## Materials list

- Materials Kit for Drypoint Printing **(9742778)**
- Jack Richeson® Clear Carve Etch Plates
  - 3 sheets, 5" x 7" **(9740728)**
  - 36 sheets, 5" x 7" **(9740729)**
  - 3 sheets, 8" x 10" **(9740730)**
  - 3 sheets, 9" x 12" **(9740731)**
- Jack Richeson® Etching Tool **(9740734)**
- Small Bin **(9716782)**
- Nasco White Budget Drawing Paper
  - 9" x 12" **(4100478)**
  - 12" x 18" **(4100479)**
  - 18" x 24" **(4100480)**
  - 24" x 36" **(4100481)**
- Watercolor paper
  - 50 sheets, 9" x 12", 90 lb. **(9729610)**
  - 250 sheets, 9" x 12", 90 lb. **(9730645)**
- Speedball® Adua Intaglio™ Ink, Carbon Black **[9733337(Z)]**
- Mat or Tag Board Scraps
- Paper Towel
- Cotton Swabs **(SB08678)**
- Cotton Pads Handi-Pads by Webril®