



BLOCK PRINTED CARDS

with Nastassja Swift

Ages: 10+
Duration: 1.5 hours

Explore printmaking from the comfort of your home with this blocked printed greeting card kit. We'll walk you through image transfers, how to handle your lino cutter, and the inking and printing process. By the time you're finished, you'll have cards to send out to friends, and a handcarved linoleum block to continue printing with!

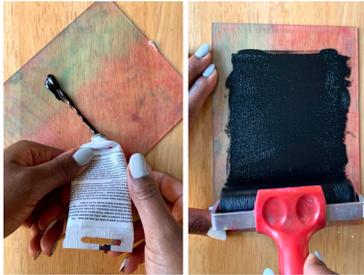
In addition to your kit, you will need: Plexi sheet or wax paper, pencil, computer paper

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. How can you creatively stay in touch with friends and family during this period of social distancing?
2. Do we need technology to remain in contact with loved ones?
3. What does sending or receiving letters and cards in the mail do that a text or call can't?



1. Sketch your desired image on a scrap piece of computer paper. It helps if you cut the paper down to the size of your 4x6 inch lino block. Your lines should be thick and dark. Draw everything as you'd like to see it on your greeting card.
2. Flip your drawing and place evenly on top of the lino block. Begin to rub with your thumb or end of your lino cutter to transfer the graphite from you paper to your block (Your image will be mirrored, but it will flip back during printing). Before you completely remove your paper, hold one end and peak under the other in case anything didn't transfer.
3. Before you begin to carve, decide what part of your image will print in black. Anything you carve away will NOT grab ink from your roller, therefore it will not print. I wanted the rabbit's outline to be black, so I carved around the outlines of my drawing. If I carved the outlines away, the rabbit would print in black with pink outlines (the color of my paper). Be careful not to cut through the block completely, unless you don't need that section - as I did with my sky.



4. Add a line of ink in the middle of your plexiglass, or wax paper. Begin to roll back and forth, lifting your brayer with each pass (whenever you've rolled up and down once, so that your brayer will spin, picking up ink evenly).



5. Roll ink evenly over your block. You can test print on computer paper to make sure you've carved enough of your block away.



6. After your test print, re-ink and align your block on the greeting card, with your card laying flat and open (so that you avoid slipping and getting ink inside your card). Your card should be cut down to 8x 6 inches with a crease halfway through.



7. Press firmly but carefully over the back of your block. Be very careful, also, when applying pressure to any sharp edges or small details.



8. Peel back by grabbing one corner. Re-ink after each print for full-color application. Let sit overnight before placing in an envelope and mailing off!



Keep up with Nastassja and what she's working on at [@nastassjaebony](https://www.instagram.com/nastassjaebony) on Instagram!