

Project Title: Exploring Traditional Asian Printmaking Techniques

Throughout my time at UVA in the Printmaking program, I have been exposed to a wide array of printmaking techniques. I have specifically been interested in traditional, Asian-style prints. Growing up, my family (both in the US and in China) have always decorated the walls of our house with Asian (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) prints. Through exploring these prints and traditional techniques, I have learned much more about myself, my ancestry, and my culture. I would like an artist minigrant to support my research into traditional Asian printmaking techniques, using the appropriate tools, paper, and inks.

Recently, I have been exploring woodcut printing – which, from what I have learned in class, involves rolling oil (and occasionally water) based inks onto the raised surface of a woodcut. This can then be printed onto a piece of paper using a printing press or handprinted using a baren. While exploring woodcut techniques, I came across the traditional Japanese mokuhanga techniques. This involves painting water-based ink onto the raised surface of a woodcut (rather than rolling), and hand-printing these woodcuts onto thin, Asian-style paper. I would like to specifically explore this technique, so that I can combine the knowledge that I have learned in class with the information I have researched on Asian-style techniques to further enrich my printmaking. This would require particular paper, a fabric/bamboo baren, and specialized carving tools and ink bases/pigments.

Timeline:

Now - March 30: Acquire materials, and begin carving images from the wood block

March 31 - April 6: Finish carving images onto wood

April 7 - 13: Experiment/explore mixing colors using Asian-style inks (such as with starch paste and pigment).

April 14 - 20: Pull proofs (on newsprint) by painting inks onto the carved wood blocks, and hand-printing using barren. Then, print onto the acquired Asian-style papers. Aim for an edition of 3 - 10 prints that are uniform using the painted ink technique.

April 21 - 23: Install prints in second-floor hallway.

April 24 - 29: Show prints from this exploration.

April 30 - beyond: Use this exploration as an insight into new printmaking techniques to inform my printmaking work moving forward.

Budget breakdown:

[Fibre-covered Bamboo Baren](#): \$11

[Yamato E-Ink Stick \(set of 6\)](#): \$70

[Boku-undo Ink Stick](#): \$34

[Kita-kata Paper Roll](#): \$88

[Mulberry Paper \(10 sheets\)](#): \$77.50

[Nori paste](#): \$13

[Woodcut Carving Tools](#): \$155

[Hanga Bake brush #1](#): \$30

[Hanga Bake brush #2](#): \$35

Total: \$500