

## Handprinting relief blocks without a press:

If you're thinking about new visual art skills and interests to pursue, relief printing at home is an option you might want to try. Unlike most other printing processes it requires few tools, little space, and, so long as you persuade your pet cat not to get involved, it isn't messy.

The process is akin to potato printing. You cut away areas from a flat surface and print directly from the raised surface that remains. Remember whatever you draw or write will flip horizontally when printed.

So 'HELP' should be written 'ꞑꞒEH'

There are many kits available online. But if you want to put your own kit together you can shop around.

The basic tools are:

A pencil, to draw the image onto the lino.

A set of lino cutters (or a sharp penknife if you are in hiding and living a half century before the invention of the silicon chip - see lead article).

A roller to spread the ink

A baren, or a flat wooden spoon to print with

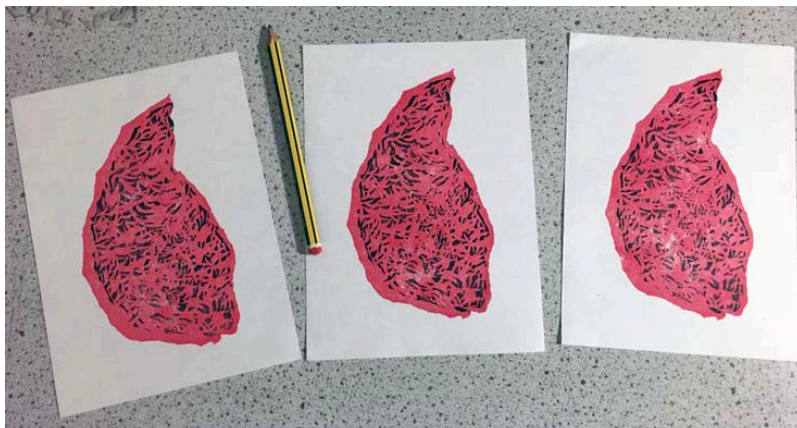
The materials are:

Paper to print on

Ink (Akum Gum Arabic washable, slow-drying inks are recommended). To print with

Lino to print the cut image from.

Below our Printstudio Technician Valentina Biga has prepared an introduction to printing in two colours



1 - linoleum for first colour; not inked up yet



2 - all the tools for inking and printing by hand, don't forget to do it on the flattest surface you can find!





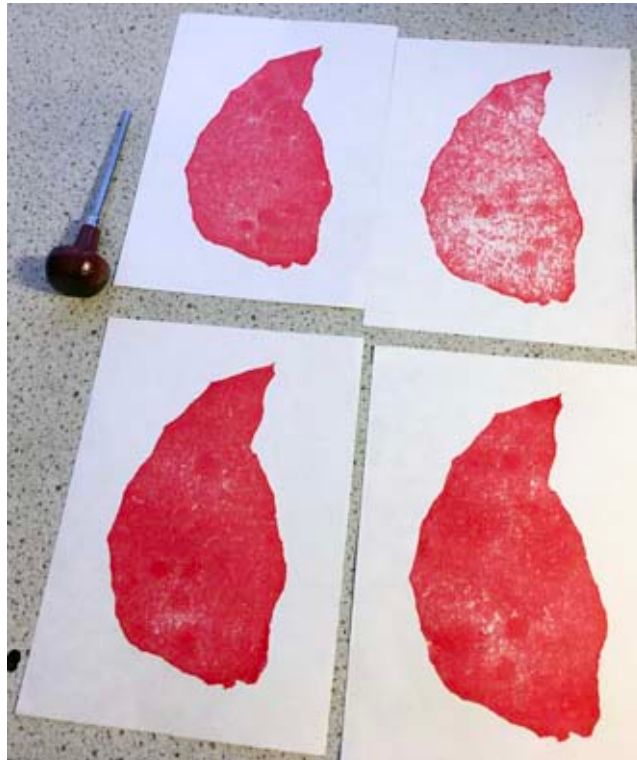
5- holding your medium weight paper front side facing down onto your inked block, apply pressure onto the back of the paper with a baren (or flat wooden spoon). Move the baren along the whole surface moving in circular motion.



6- print and block



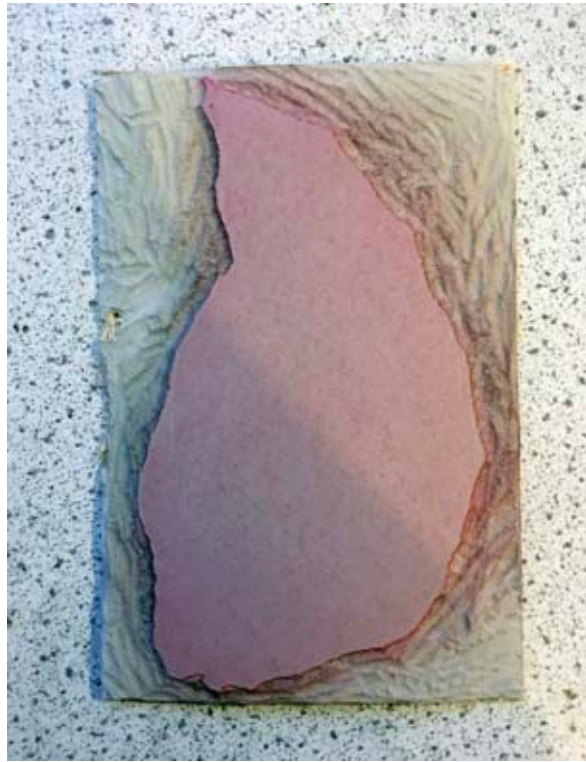
7- proof and prints



8- clean your block/s and tools with soapy water (one drop of washing up liquid to a litre of warm water is plenty to clean 1 A6 size block, small size rollers, tools).



9 - 1st colour block cleaned



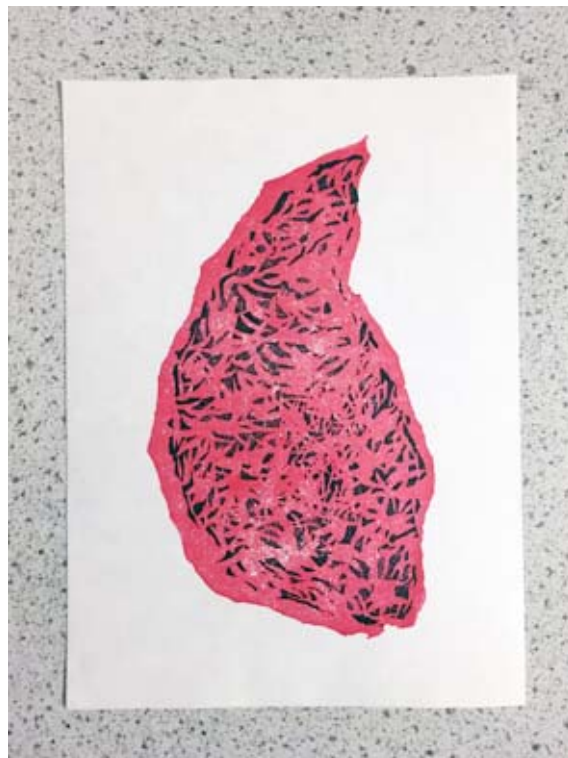
10 - 2nd colour block cutting



11 - inking second block



12 - first and second layers printed!



13 – detail



14 - Akua Intaglio inks used for this process. Easy to clean, slow-drying in the process of inking up!

