

RELIEF PRINTING

Relief printing is printing from a raised surface.

This is a process where protruding surface faces of the printing plate or block are inked; recessed areas are ink free. Printing the image is therefore a relatively simple matter of inking the face of the matrix and bringing it in firm contact with the paper. A printing-press may not be needed as the back of the paper can be rubbed or pressed by hand with a simple tool such as a brayer or roller.

The matrix in relief printing is classically created by starting with a flat original surface, and then removing (e.g., by carving) away areas intended to print white. The remaining areas of the original surface receive the ink.

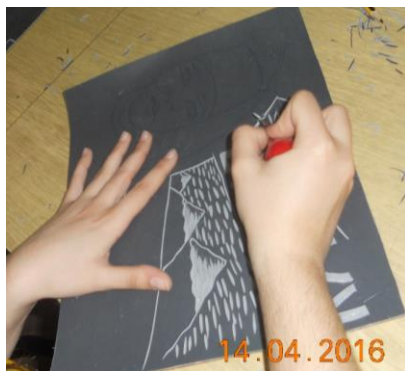
A simple example of relief printing is a rubber stamp pressed into a stamp pad and pressed onto a piece of paper.

Relief printing plates are made from flat sheets of material such as wood, linoleum, metal, styrofoam etc.



The first step is to draw a picture on a paper and then redraw it on the surface of the plate.

After drawing a picture on the surface, the artist uses tools to cut away the areas that will not print.



A roller - called a brayer - is used to spread ink on the plate. A sheet of paper is placed on top of the plate and the image is transferred by rubbing with the hand or a block of wood, or by being run through a printing press.



The completed print is a mirror image of the original plate.



The relief family of techniques includes woodcut, metalcut, wood engraving, relief etching, linocut, rubber stamp, foam printing, potato printing, and some types of collagraph.