

the warhol: resources & lessons

Unit Lesson Plans / Creative Thinking & Making / Silkscreen Printing / Lesson 3: Preparing and Exposing Photographic Silkscreens



Lesson 3: Preparing and Exposing Photographic Silkscreens

This lesson walks students through the process of coating silk screens with emulsion, proper drying procedures and photographic exposure using their film positives.

Suggested Time Frame: 2-4 class periods

Unit Objectives:

- Students identify, describe, and discuss key aspects of Andy Warhol's life and art.
- Students identify and discuss the design elements, color and shape.
- Students apply their knowledge of shape and color theory to create a work of art.
- Students apply stencil and photographic silkscreen processes to create a work of art.

Pennsylvania State Standards:

Arts and Humanities

9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition

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Materials:

Diazo screen printing emulsion for water-based inks
1 open silkscreen for every 5 students
1 silkscreen per student for the photographic layer
Student's Film Positive transparencies
Degreasing soap – *For example, Dawn dishwashing liquid. This same soap can be used to wash the ink out of silkscreens. Do not use any soap to wash screens that contains bleach.*
Scoop coater
Light-tight box or dark room
Exposing unit
*Comet Cleanser

Vocabulary:

Emulsion
Scoop Coater
Degreaser

Procedure:

1. Present PowerPoint - Preparing & Exposing Photographic Silkscreens.
2. *If your screens are new, clean them first with Comet to roughen the surface of the fabric. Only do this if the screens are new, and then never use Comet again. Comet contains bleach, which is harmful to your screens if used over time.

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3. Dilute degreasing soap with water and pour into a plastic bottle with a nozzle.

4. Wash silkscreens using the degreasing soap. Thoroughly rinse and dry silkscreens.

5. Read and follow all of the instructions that come with the emulsion. Sensitize the emulsion, stir, and let sit for 60 minutes to allow time for the air bubbles to rise to the surface.

6. In a darkened room or in a room with a yellow safe light, coat silkscreens with the emulsion and scoop coater. Follow the directions included with the emulsion.

7. Store the coated silkscreens in a dark room or light-tight box until they are dry. Screens may be stacked on top of each other using blocks in between to save space. Screens should dry with the flat side down. (The side you used the squeegee on should be facing up.) They need to dry perfectly flat. If the screen is tilted even the slightest bit, then the emulsion might dry unevenly and run off the screen. Once the screens are dry they may be put in black plastic garbage bags until you are ready to expose them.

8. Expose the silkscreen with the students' Film Positives. A screen exposure chart should be included with your emulsion. If not, you will need to test exposure times. A good time to start with is 5 minutes.

9. Wash out the screens and dry them completely before the students print their first layers. Follow the wash-out instructions included with the emulsion.



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