

PROJECT 3: MAKING A STATEMENT WITH WOODBLOCK

Due November 15, 2016 at the beginning of class for 15% of Overall Course Grade

BACKGROUND

For your third project in ART140, you will create a print using woodblock (woodcut) relief. Woodblock is the oldest printmaking technique, dating back almost 3000 years. In its long history, it has been used for everything from patterning fabric in ancient China to illustrating books in Renaissance Europe, to printing posters in rural 1900s America. It has also been the medium behind many impactful works of art.

The process of woodblock relief printing involves cutting away sections of a flat board, leaving raised areas to hold ink. The result is bold, graphic image that also has a hand-carved feel. The combination of impactful marks, handmade sensibility and the ability to make multiples means woodblock is well-suited to social or political statement.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For Project 3, you will create a print that expresses a point of view on a social or cultural issue. You can choose a large or hot-button topic like the presidential election or race relations, or you can pick something more modest like the importance of connecting with nature or the pervasiveness of internet ads. The theme is intentionally open to wide interpretation, but, whatever your topic, *your print must take a stance*. What do YOU have to say about the issue? Preferably what you say will be meaningful to you, since your print will be more successful if you genuinely care.

Once you've decided what to say, consider how to say it. If you decide to extol the virtues of connecting with nature, for example, you might create a print of a lonely person in a barren landscape to suggest how isolated we are without our environment. Or you might render a hyper-idyllic paradise to remind viewers how much nature has to contribute. You might even build an abstract composition that suggests nature while creating a sense of warm welcome and belonging. Use *subject, composition and style* to express yourself. This is where research and ideation (thumbnail sketches) are crucial, because they allow you to work toward a truly creative solution.

REQUIREMENTS

As part of the process of learning woodblock relief, you will be asked complete several homework assignments. These factor into your final project grade and include research and ideation as well as developing a guide image and working on your matrix. As with drypoint, it is difficult to make corrections in a woodblock print, so some planning is important, especially when you're learning. Although you will have time in class to work on Project 3, you want to save as much of this time as possible for printing.

Your Project 3 print must be a *minimum* 8" x 10". Maximum size is dictated by the board you use. FYI: the wood donated by Diane (thank you Diane!!!) is 12" x 18". Your print can be square or rectangular. I can cut boards to the desired size.

For submission, Project 3 requires a minimum edition of three identical prints.

SUBMISSION

Your Project 3 edition must be completed and ready for critique on Tuesday, November 15 at the beginning of class. No late work is accepted, so, if you must be absent on the 15th, please take a photograph of your print and submit it to me via e-mail no later than 5:20 pm.

CRITIQUE

We will have an in-class critique on Tuesday, November 15. You will be expected to speak about what you made, how you made it, why you made the choices you did and how you used woodblock relief to represent your issue.

Remember critiques are equal in importance to an exam, so you are expected to be present, prepared and participatory. Missing critique will result in your project grade being automatically lowered one letter. As previously stated, your project must be submitted on time regardless.

GRADING

Project 3 is worth 15% of your course grade for ART140. Criteria for evaluation are:

1. completion of all requirements in a timely manner including related homework assignments and other outside work
2. creative engagement in ideation
3. demonstrated understanding and application of the terminology, materials and techniques of woodblock relief printing
4. establishment of thoughtful relationships between the aesthetic characteristics of woodblock relief and the chosen concept
5. development of well-composed, well-conceived, meaningful imagery
6. overall quality of the prints
7. consistency of the edition
8. active, thoughtful participation in critique