

# ARMORY

Armory Center for the Arts

## Grade Levels

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade  
and beyond

## National Visual Arts Common Core Standards

### VA: Cr2.1.7a

Demonstrate persistence in developing skills with various materials, methods, and approaches in creating works of art or design.

### VA: Re.7.1.8a

Explain how a person's aesthetic choices are influenced by culture and environment and impact the visual image that one conveys to others.

### VA: Re.7.2.6a

Analyze ways that visual components and cultural associations suggested by images influence ideas, emotions, and actions.

### VA: Re8.1.7a

Interpret art by analyzing art-making approaches, the characteristics of form and structure, relevant contextual information, subject matter, and use of media to identify ideas and mood conveyed.

### VA: Cn11.1.8a

Distinguish different ways art is used to represent, establish, reinforce, and reflect group identity.

\*Project is adaptable with varying complexity for ages children to adults.

## Virtual Field Trip Tour Lesson Plan

# Printmaking Figures

Developed by Armory Teaching Artists: Danielle Stolz, Gabriella Carboni, and Austyn de Lugo

## Lesson Goal

Learn how figures can tell personal and cultural stories by exploring the art of Alison Saar and creating your own printmaking masterpiece.

## Lesson Objectives

### Students will:

- View and discuss a contemporary work of art.
- Learn how to draw a proportioned figure.
- Create a cardboard printing plate to layer over your figure drawing.

## Materials

- Paper x2
- Scissors
- Marker
- Liquid Glue
- Cardboard
- Paint and brush to apply it

## Vocabulary

**Art:** proportion, symbol, printing plate, layering

**Themes:** serenity

## Additional Resources

- [armoryarts.org/saar](http://armoryarts.org/saar)
- [https://lalouver.com/artist.cfm?tArtist\\_id=263](https://lalouver.com/artist.cfm?tArtist_id=263)



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## Image

Alison Saar. *Sea of Serenity*. 2007. wood, copper, ceiling tin, 72 x 24 x 24 in. Courtesy Armory Center for the Arts.



## Warm Up Discussion

Looking at the art example, ask the following questions:

- What do you see?
- What kind of artwork is this? What materials do you think this is made out of?
- What is the relationship between the moths and the figure?  
(Hint - why a moth? Why on this figure?)
- How would you feel if you were covered in moths?
- When do you feel calm or peaceful?
- What kind of narrative do you imagine from viewing this sculpture?

## Art Activity

Combine drawing and engineering skills to create a layered printmaking masterpiece.

## Procedure/Steps

### 1. Step 1 - Figure Drawing

Learn about the proportions of a body by studying an armature/stick figure. Practice drawing a standing pose with a gesture drawing (quick sketchy lines), paying attention to the axis of the body: the spine, shoulder line, and hip line. Once you feel more comfortable (try a few gesture drawings!), decide what pose you want your figure to hold and think about how it can help tell your figure's story. Try the pose yourself before drawing to get a better understanding of it. You can even look in the mirror as you draw, or take a photo of someone else doing the pose. After drawing, outline the figure in a sharpie or other dark line.

### 2. Step 2 - Symbol Design

On the other sheet of paper, design a symbol or shape that illustrates something about your figure. Think about how your symbol can represent your figure's personality, culture, or history and tell your figure's story. Make sure you break your symbol down into simple shapes as we will be cutting them out of cardboard for our printing plate. Once you are happy with your design, copy it onto a piece of cardboard. **\*\*Important note: Text will appear backwards in a print, so if your symbol involves letters make sure you mirror the design (or avoid letters altogether!)\*\***

### 3. Step 3 - Printing Plate

Create your printing plate by cutting out your cardboard symbol and arranging it on top of a rectangular piece of cardboard. Glue down the symbol with white glue and then cover over the entire plate with glue. Let it dry completely.

### 4. Step 4 - Printing

After your plate dries, you can ink it by using a brush to apply a thick layer of acrylic paint on your symbol - try and avoid painting the cardboard back. Then, pick up your plate by the edges and flip it over so the ink is facing your drawing. You may want to test this on a scrap piece of paper first. Position the plate where you want to stamp your symbol and firmly press down using the palm of your hand. Make sure not to move your plate (otherwise your symbol will appear smudged). Flip over your drawing with the plate attached, and then peel back the paper from the stamp. Repeat this process to layer your symbol over and around your figure - pay attention to where you want the symbol to appear and what color!

To further elevate the collage-making, incorporate some found material such as magazines, newspapers, or patterned paper with the rubbing and trace drawings.

## Closure

- Share your artwork with a friend!
- Explain what pose and symbol you chose for your figure. What story does it tell?