

## Stencil a Painting

Stencils and repeated patterns have been used in painting as long ago as 9,000 years, when early humans placed their hands against cave walls and outlined them in charcoal or paint. Stenciling is the reverse of stamping; the part of the template that is cut out is what forms the image. In this lesson, even a stencil made of basic shapes can be effective. Each stencil can be used repeatedly, and by changing oil pastel color, overlapping images, or using only a part of an image, the result is a cohesive composition that has depth and color fusion — and the final painting will look like an airbrush painting.



### Grade Levels 4-12

*Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

### Preparation

1. Cut 22" x 30" sheets of paper to make five 9" x 12" sheets, one per student.
2. Cut Frisket Film from a 24" x 14-ft roll to make 36, 9" x 12" sheets, one per student

### Process

1. Each student draws shapes to create a design on a piece of newsprint paper. While drawing their designs, students should leave solid areas between each shape to ensure stability (similar to a stained glass window with lead between the glass designs).
2. Lay a piece of transfer paper on top of the Frisket and then place the design sheet on top of the transfer paper. Trace the design so it transfers onto the Frisket film. The transfer paper is reusable so that more than one student can use a single sheet. (Note: Frisket film is translucent enough to use with a light box so images can be placed beneath the

### Materials

**Badger® Matte Foto/Frisket Film**, 24" x 14-ft roll (25203-1903); share one across class

**Blick® All Media Paper**, 22" x 30" (10210-1003); share one sheet between two students, or **Blick® Studio Canvas**, 9" x 12", 10-sheet pad (07400-1043); one sheet per student

**Blick® All-Purpose Newsprint**, 9" x 12", 50-sheet pad (10311-2013); one sheet per student

**Portfolio Series® Watersoluble Oil Pastels**, 12-color set (20049-1012); share between two students

**Blick® E-Z Grip Knife** (57419-2980); share eight across class

**Loew-Cornell® Transfer Paper**, Graphite, 9" x 13" 4-sheet package, (10501-2220); share one package across class

**Blick® Economy White Bristle Brushes** package of 72 Brights (05170-0729); share across class

### Optional Materials

**Value Pre-Cut Mats**, package of 50, 9" x 12" artwork size (17205-1006)

**Dura-Lar™ Clear Film**, .005" thick, 9" x 12", 50-sheet pad (55506-1305)

## Process, continued

Frisket film on a light box and then traced, eliminating the need for transfer paper.)

3. Place the Frisket with the drawn image on top of a piece of cardboard or poster board before cutting out the stencil. Cut each shape cleanly using the EZ Grip Knife.
4. The Frisket has a sticky back that will adhere to the painting. Remove the backing sheet and place the stencil on the paper or canvas. Rub the Frisket down firmly to make sure all the edges are secure.
5. Draw around the outer edge of the stencil with the oil pastel. The pigment should be deposited on the outer edge of the Frisket film rather than directly on the paper or canvas.
6. Use a bristle brush to sweep the paint off of the stencil edge and onto the paper or canvas background. Always brush from the stencil onto the paper. Brushing toward the stencil may push the pastel under the stencil and smear the edges.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 by moving the stencil, overlapping the design and changing color as desired. The stencils can be cleaned periodically but blending the colors is desirable.

## Options

1. When dry, cover the drawing with a protective layer of clear Dura-Lar and tape it to the back of a pre-cut mat to give the piece a finished look.
2. Paintings on paper or canvas sheets can be backed with board. Paintings on canvas panels can be framed.

## Painterly Process for Grades 9-12

1. See example above, right. Follow process steps above, but substitute the following materials:
  - In place of All-Media Paper, substitute [Blick® Canvas Panels](#), 9" x 12" (07008-0912), one per student
  - In place of Watersoluble Oil Pastels, substitute [Shiva® Artist's Paintstik® Colors](#), Professional Set of 12 (00409-1009)



## National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

**K-4** Students use art materials and tools in a safe and responsible manner.

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas.

**9-12** Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #3 Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols and ideas.

**K-4** Students explore and understand prospective content for works of art.

**5-8** Students integrate visual, spatial and temporal concepts with content to communicate intended meaning in their artworks.

**9-12** Students apply subjects, symbols and ideas in their artworks and use the skills gained to solve problems in daily life.