

## Printing project with Charlotte Adcock Designs

I am Charlotte Adcock, a local artist based in Newbury. I specialise in Printmaking, Lino print, Geli plate printing and Screen printing. I also draw and paint too. I'm inspired by the natural world around me and have been spending lots of time out walking and exploring during lockdown, which has led to some new artwork.

In this project we will be creating a set of cards and everything you need is in this pack. I have written out instructions, including hints and tips to help you along the way.

### Instructions:

Assemble all the materials you will need:

- Paints
- Roller / paint applicator
- Paint tray
- Cards
- Foam
- Pencil

*You may also find the following useful!*

- Scissors (not included)
- Scraps of paper for practising your designs (not included)

1. On a scrap of paper practice drawing out your design for your card. Practice until you are happy with it.

*\* Start with a simple but bold design as this will suit the materials you are working with better. A sharp pencil is needed to indent marks made on the foam.*

2. Cut the foam in half, using scissors. Try to be **gentle** when you cut to avoid it snapping.



3. On one half draw out your chosen design. You don't need to press hard at all to get an image indented into the foam. If you press too hard you will go through the foam!



4. Squeeze out a pea sized amount of paint into your paint tray (1 colour to start with).



5. Using your roller or paint applicator spread the paint out evenly across the tray.



6. Using the roller or paint applicator spread the paint across your foam until it is evenly covered.

\* *You should make sure the whole foam is covered to avoid a patchy print. It's also a good idea to put some scrap paper/newspaper down to protect your surface. Don't worry though, the paint is water based.*



7. Gently place your card (or practice sheets) face down (the side you want your image) on top of the foam and hold it firmly with one hand.

\* *Once you place the card (or practice sheets) on top of the foam, do not let it move or this will smudge your image.*



8. Rub the back of the card (or practice sheets) all over, be consistent to ensure you have applied pressure across the whole card.

*\* If you find this part tricky, use a wooden spoon to apply even pressure across the whole card (do not forget the edges / corners)*



9. Once you are sure you have consistently applied pressure across the back of the card, carefully unpeel the card from the foam.

*\* Sometimes the foam sticks to card, do not worry if this happens – just carefully remove it.*

10. You should have your first print! Everything can be cleaned up using water – all paint is water based.



## What went wrong?!

### ***Too patchy / white areas showing through?***

- It is likely you may have missed an area when printing (applying pressure). On the next print, take your time and ensure you have gone over all the card (including corners / edges).
- Another possibility is you did not apply enough paint at the first stage. You are looking to cover the foam with an *even* and *thin* layer of paint.

### ***My image has disappeared!***

- It is likely you may have used too much paint! When applying the paint, you are aiming for a thin layer. Gently wipe off any excess.
- Another possibility is your drawing into the foam was too faint / shallow. A way to check this is by running your finger over the image. If you can feel the lines you have made with your fingertips – then it should print. If not – it is likely you need to press a *tiny* bit harder.

### ***My image is blurry!***

- It sounds like something moved at some point during the printing process. To avoid this happening, try to always keep one hand securely on the card (on top of the foam) until you have finished printing, this will avoid the card slipping off the foam block.
- When you are finished – make sure you gently peel off the block from the card, it can smudge / blur at this stage too.

Further ideas / things to try:

- You can experiment with colour. In your set you have three colours, why not try mixing colours? Why not try adding different colours to different parts of your image?



- One of the ways to experiment with colour is to have stripes of colour on the same print (see the botanical print below). To achieve this, use all three of your colours and apply a strip of each colour across your print (being careful to blend the colours with your roller or paint applicator).



- Another thing to try is to create a 'stamp' out of the foam by simply cutting out your image and removing the background. The Christmas bauble below is a stamp.

