



Lesson Plan - Watercolor Gel Plate Printing

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Create detailed polychromatic images with a gel plate and highly-soluble Marabu Graphix Aqua Inks. Print multiple copies of the same image with just one application of color.

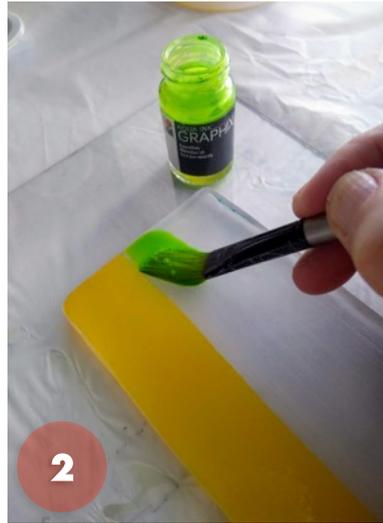
SUPPLIES

- Marabu Graphix Aqua Inks
- Clear acrylic gel medium, matte medium/ clear gesso
- Gel plate, brayer, palette knife, paintbrushes
- 140# hot-press watercolor paper

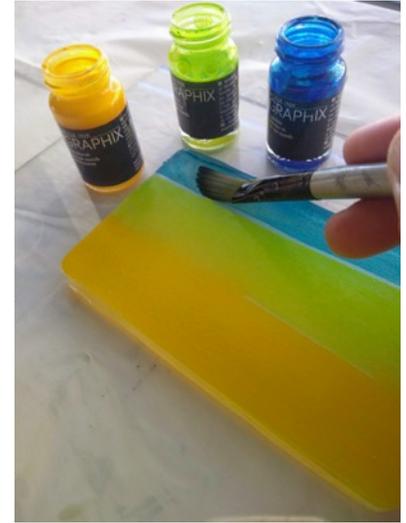


1

Brush clear gesso (or matte medium) over the plate and let dry to prevent water media from resisting the surface and beading up. Experiment with the viscosity - if the medium is too watery, you can get color bleeds. If it's too thick, you can get a skin.



2



Aqua Inks are ideal for creating seamless color blends and gradations. For sharper contrast in your design, allow the first color to dry before applying another color beside it. Use a hairdryer to speed up the drying as needed.



3

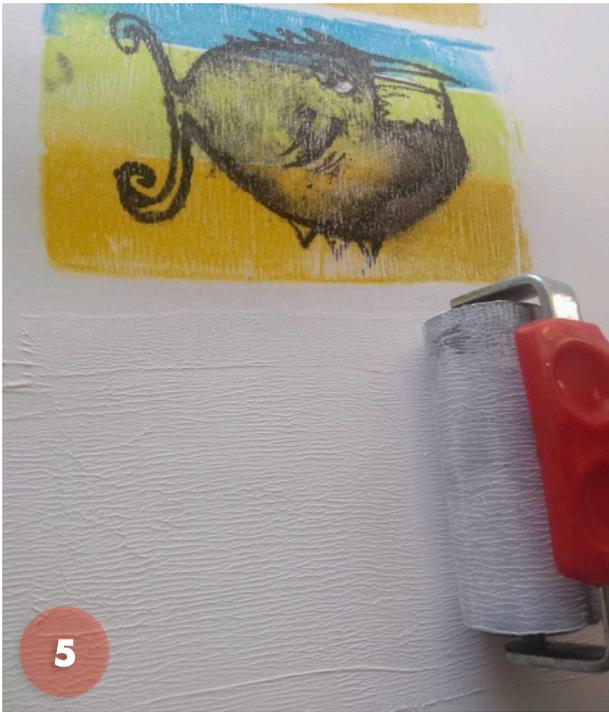
Draw a detailed image with a brush or dip pen.



4

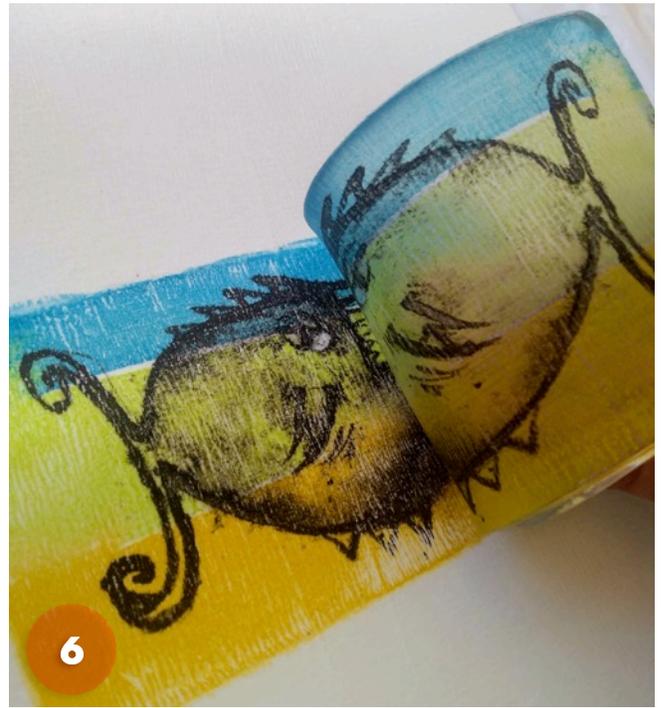


Shade your image with a dry brush while the color is still wet. Use a damp cotton swab to subtract color to create highlights.



5

Brush a thin, even coat of clear medium across the paper with a brayer. Before it dries, place the gel plate on top, image side down. The medium on the paper must be wet, so work quickly. Try other mediums (like gesso) to release the image for varied printing effects.



6

Apply light, even pressure with your fingers across the plate. Lift the corner to see how the image is transferring then press again as needed.



7

Repeat for additional prints - the image will gradually become lighter as you remove the inks from the plate. After printing, soak the plate in soapy water to remove the medium.

