

The MFA printmaking gallery contains three projects completed for a printmaking elective course. This course was taken during my first semester as part of the graduate program at the University of Waterloo.

Contemporary Sublime:

I asked students and faculty in the Fine Arts Program to come up with a word or an image that defined the “sublime” for them. These images were composited together to create the “Contemporary Sublime”. This etching was printed using three layers. The background image is printed on paper, with the mid-ground and foreground printed on Japanese rice paper using chin colle.

US/THEM:

US/THEM is a playful commentary on the idea of the American Quilt and the weaving together of the duality of Us and Them.

Explode your own Landscape:

This is a tongue in cheek ‘do it yourself’ printing kit.

The following is an excerpt from the Instruction Manual included in the box:

“Why spend a lot of money on expensive art when you can make your own? Now **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LandScape™** allows you to do just that quickly and easily!*

Our team of art experts and psychologists** have been working tirelessly, hand-in-hand with landscape designers and the bomb squad.*** After endless surveys and experiments we have come up with a no-fail**** process that will be both aesthetically and emotionally satisfying. **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LandScape™** fulfils your creative *and* destructive tendencies *simultaneously!* (And the best part is that no one gets hurt in the process!)******

Impress your conservative friends with your ability***** to create aesthetically pleasing and well-composed landscapes. At the same time, impress your hipster friends with your conceptual wit by producing a profound contemporary artistic statement by “blowing-up”

your clichéd landscapes. (We all know that the image died years ago anyway.) Take the art world by storm: use our Patented **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** kit!!!*****

* **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** takes no responsibility for your lack of talent and the amount of time it actually takes you

**A couple of random kids

***We used Google

**** **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** takes no responsibility for your personal failure

***** **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** takes no responsibility for actual injuries incurred through the use or abuse of this kit

***** **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** takes no responsibility for your lack of ability

***** **KaBOOM! EXpLOde your OWN LANDScape_{TM}** cannot promise an income. Please note that even when used properly, this product may not turn everyone into an instant Art Star

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use the ROLLING SURFACE (2ND Wood board WHEN you open the Kit: White and covered in PLASTIC SHEETING,) to MIX and ROLL out the COLOURS that you WOULD LIKE to PRINT WITH. FOLLOW the easy to USE COLOUR MIXING guide IN the MANUAL to HELP get you Started. ROLL out the INK UNTIL you HAVE a SMOOTH COATING ON your ROLLER.
2. INK-up the BACKGROUND SCENES, Starting WITH the FLAT COLOUR BLOCK. (The rectangular 'BACKGROUND' BLOCKS CAN be FOUND IN the BOTTOM Layer OF the Kit.) Repeatedly ROLL INK onto the BLOCK UNTIL you HAVE a SMOOTH and even Layer. Repeat WITH the LANDScape BLOCK. The 'MIST' BLOCK CAN be USED at any time to achieve an ethereal 'Foggy' effect.
3. PRINT the BACKGROUND BLOCKS. PLACE a SHEET OF paper over the INKed BLOCK. Be careFUL to centre the BLOCK. USE the back OF the Spoon to POLISH the back OF the paper. The PRESSure WILL LIFT INK OFF the BLOCK and TRANSFER it

onto your paper. Be sure to work the entire back of the paper thoroughly with lots of pressure to get an even print.

4. After two or three layered prints on your paper you will need to let the ink dry.
5. You are now ready to select the landscape elements that you would like to put into your scene. It is a good idea to start out with the things that are furthest away in space. For example the distant mountains or clouds. Objects closest to you, in the foreground, should be printed last.

Note: You may have to print each shape twice with different colours to make them 'pop'.

6. Let your completed landscape dry.

7. You are now ready to explode the landscape! **KaBOOM!**TM

Note: Cutting a sheet of thin paper in the shape of the explosion and adhering it to your print before printing on it will help to visually separate the explosion from the background.