Activity Sheet
Mono-print— Christmas card

Inspiration

Australian artist Eric Thake started creating linocut Christmas cards for his family and friends in 1941. They loved them so much that he continued printing Christmas cards each year for over 30 years!

Eric Thake created *An Opera House in every home* to celebrate Christmas in 1972, the year before the Sydney Opera House officially opened.

Notice how he has used bold shapes in contrasting black and white for the design of the card. Can you see the household items Eric Thake has used to represent the distinct sail like shapes of the Sydney Opera House?

Create your own

Using paper, paint and household items, we invite you to create a series of mono-print Christmas cards inspired by the cards Eric Thake printed for his own friends and family.

Materials required

- Aluminium foil
- Masking tape
- Paint
- Paint palette or plate
- Pencil
- Foam brush or paint brush
- Cotton tips
- Paper
- Baby wipes

Instructions

1. Tape a piece of aluminium foil (a little larger than the paper you want to print on) to your work surface.
2. Place folded paper card onto the foil and trace around it using a pencil.
3. Remove paper, then place masking tape around the inside of the shape you have traced (This will allow for a clean border around your print, and ensure you can pick up the printed paper without getting paint on your fingers!)
4. Use paint to fill inside the area you have taped off, trying to avoid the tape. If any paint gets on the tape, carefully remove using a baby wipe.
5. Use a cotton tip to draw the design for your card in the paint.
6. Place your paper over the taped area and press down firmly, ensuring you rub well with your fingers.
7. Carefully peel the paper away, revealing your printed design and set aside to dry.
8. If you'd like to make another Christmas card simply repaint your foil, draw another design and follow the steps above.

Exploring shape and line

Eric Thake's *An Opera House in every home*, 1972, is a great example of how simple lines and bold shapes can be used to effectively represent a larger overall image.
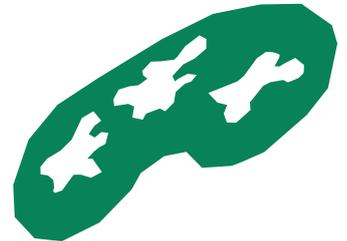
When creating a drawing to print onto your card consider breaking down your design into basic shapes.

A christmas tree can be drawn using only a large triangle for the body of the tree and a small rectangle for the trunk!

Share your work!

We invite you to share your creations with us online and on social media:

@GeelongGallery @Scribble.Studio #GeelongGalleryKids #GalleryTots

An Opera House in every home.   Eric Thake 1972

Curriculum links

This activity aligns with the Early Years Learning Framework through;

- Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world.
- Learning Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.
- Learning Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators.

Program Partner

Gwenneth Nancy Head Foundation

Eric Thake
An Opera House in every home 1972
linocut
Geelong Gallery
Purchased with funds generously provided by the Friends of the Geelong Gallery and the Gallery Grasshoppers, 1986
Photographer: George Stawicki