

# Easy, Breezy “Screenprinting” on Mini Canvas

Screenprints (also called “serigraphs”) are prints made by creating a stencil on a woven fabric and forcing ink or paint through the openings of the fabric to transfer the image onto a surface. This process is greatly simplified with Scratch-A-Print — a product that creates a stencil simply by tracing over a drawing with a ball point pen - no cutting required. Water-based paint is then forced through the lines, transferring drawings in any color onto almost any surface. Multiple prints can be made from one stencil.

Mini-Canvas is available in packages of 5, with a choice of 3 small sizes: 2" x 2", 2-1/2" x 3-1/2" and 3" x 3". Finished “screen” prints can be made into ornaments, pendants, gift tags, used in collage work or simply put on display.

## Grade Levels 3-8

### Process

1. Paint mini canvas on the front and sides with a solid color for the background. Allow to dry and paint a second coat, if needed.
2. Pre-cut drawing paper is included with the Scratch-A-Print®. If using a mini-canvas smaller than the paper, cut it to size. Create a simple line drawing with a dark pencil.
3. Place the Scratch-A-Print® frame over the drawing and, using a ball point pen, firmly trace the lines through the clear plastic overlay. When drawing is complete, remove the plastic overlay and examine the tissue stencil beneath it to make sure the lines are there. If more lines are needed, lay the plastic down to draw through again.

NOTE: multiple images can be drawn on one frame. Simply mask off with a piece of scrap paper when you are printing what you don't wish to show.



*The same stencil of a flower was printed 3 times on each canvas. Each print was placed in a different position and a variety of paint colors were used.*



*This piece uses 2 stencils - the moon, which was printed twice on each canvas, in white and yellow - and the trees, printed in white or brown. The canvases are hinged together by gluing an accordion-folded piece of brown construction paper to the back side.*



## Materials

- Blick Studio® Mini Canvas (07147-) package of 5, need at least 1 per student
- Blickrylic™ Student Acrylic Paint (00711-) assorted colors, distribute throughout class
- Scratch-A-Print® 2 (44909-1001), 3" x 4" package of 10 frames, need at least 1 per student
- Rectangular 6-well Tray (03068-1006), share between 3-4 students
- Foam Brush Set, 40-piece set, (06041-0409), need 1 brush per student

## Process, continued:

4. Lay the stencil down on top the canvas and hold in place with fingers. Dip the corner of a foam brush in the desired paint color and, with a dabbing motion, gently push the paint through the stencil onto the canvas. Lift a corner to look at the paint coverage, add more if needed, then pull the stencil away.
5. Repeat the image on the same canvas or print again on another canvas. Images may be layered, allow paint to dry in between. The stencil can be gently cleaned with a damp paper towel or rinsed in a container of water and blot-dried in order to change colors. Do not allow the paint to dry on the stencil or it will not be usable again.
6. Add more paint to the canvas, if desired, using the stencil print as guidelines for adding color. The sides and back of the canvas can be painted also.
7. Options for display of mini canvas “screen-prints”
  - Glue to a piece of colored matboard and put in a frame
  - Hinge together by gluing an accordion-folded piece of heavy paper to the back to make a free-standing screen
  - Use as part of a collage or larger painting
  - Glue to the front of a greeting card
  - Glue ribbon or cord around the edges of the canvas, form a loop at the top for hanging to make an ornament, pendant or gift tag
  - Display on a Mini-Easel (50360-1001), the perfect size for a tiny painting

## National Standards

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

- K-4** Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories
- 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

Content Standard #2 — Using knowledge of structures and functions

- K-4** Students know the differences among visual characteristics and purposes of art in order to convey ideas
- 5-8** Students generalize about the effects of visual structures and functions and reflect upon these effects in their own work