

Printmaking workshop

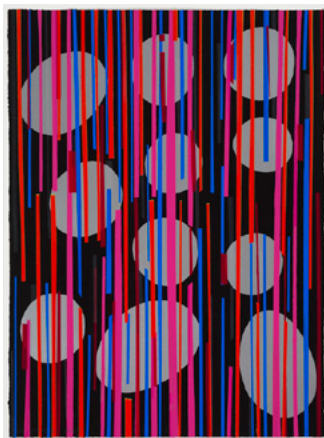
Melinda Harper is an artist from Melbourne who creates colourful, abstract works using screen-printing techniques.

Check out more of her work in the **Heide Collection**



Melinda Harper
Untitled 2016
watercolour, screenprinted
gouache and graphite on paper
40,5 x 30 cm
artist's proof
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Melinda Harper 2016
© Melinda Harper

In these works, Harper has used the Art Elements of **COLOUR** and **SHAPE** —printing geometric square and rectangular shapes over bands of bright colours. She has also used **VALUE** by printing squares in black and a lighter shade of grey, to create a shadow effect.



Melinda Harper
Untitled 2007
screenprint 2/10
76 x 56 cm
Heide Museum of Modern Art
Gift of Melinda Harper 2008
© Melinda Harper

In this work, she has used **NEGATIVE SPACE** by removing circular and organic oval shapes, and then printed brightly coloured bands over the top.

Follow these directions to make your own patterned paper, inspired by Melinda's work.

You will need

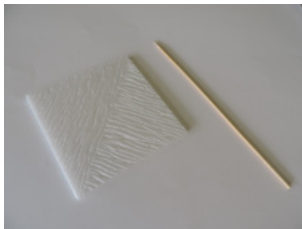


- A piece of printing foam (or a styrofoam tray from the supermarket)
- A3 sized paper
- Paints
- Paint roller (or a paintbrush)
- Craft knife
- Hot glue gun (or sticky tape)
- Plastic lids
- A wooden or metal skewer
- A drop sheet or newspaper to protect your table

Directions



Use your ruler and knife to measure and cut small squares from the printing foam. You'll need at least two. If you don't have printing foam, a styrofoam meat tray from the supermarket works just as well. We made ours 8cm x 8cm, but you can make yours any size you like.



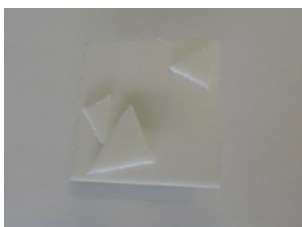
On one piece of foam, use a skewer to experiment with **LINE**.



On another foam square, work with **NEGATIVE SPACE** by cutting shapes out with a knife. Then glue this piece onto another foam square as backing.



Melinda Harper's works used **SHAPES** such as circles and squares. We chose to work with the geometric shape of triangles.



Using the pieces of foam you cut out, arrange the **SHAPES** on another foam square and glue them in place.



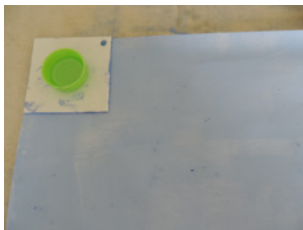
Use the hot glue gun to attach plastic lids onto the backs of your foam squares to create handles for your stamps. If you don't have a hot glue gun, use tape to stick a piece of a toilet roll onto the back—it works just as well.



Make sure your table is protected with a drop sheet or pieces of newspaper, and decide which **COLOURS** you want to use. We decided to use blue, and to play with **VALUE** by using a light blue, mid blue and dark blue in our prints.



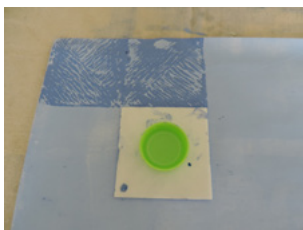
If you have coloured paper—great! If not, you can paint your own. We mixed a light blue using a ratio of about 1 part blue paint to 5 parts white. Using the roller, paint several sheets of paper and let them dry. A paintbrush works just as well if you don't have a roller.



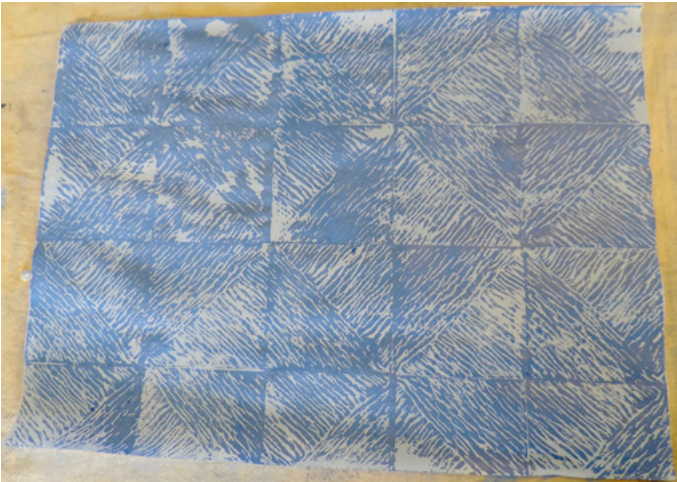
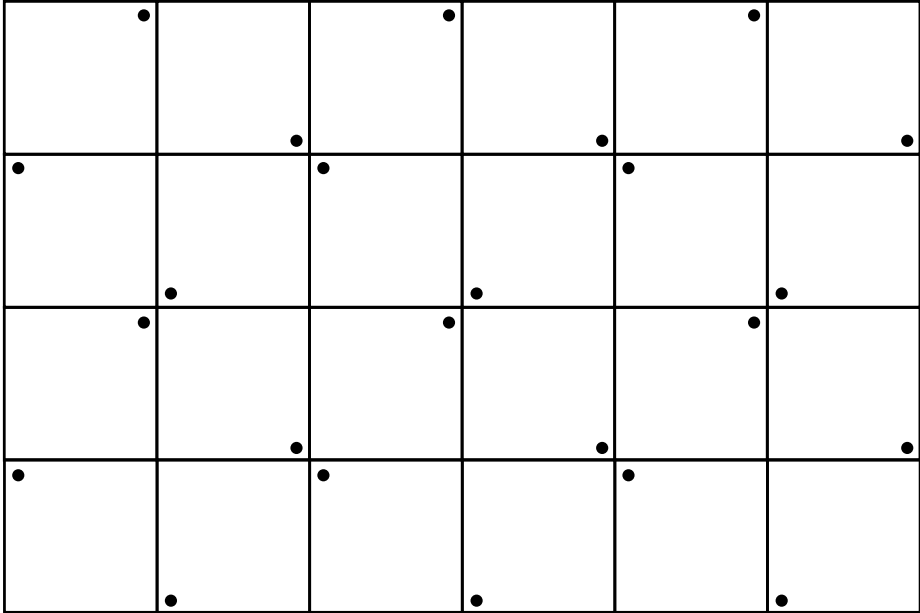
Choose another colour for your first print. We mixed a darker blue by adding more blue paint to the shade we used to paint the paper.



Choose one of your stamps. We chose to start with the line-based stamp, and created a design using quarter turns. Look at the diagram to see how to turn your stamp to make a circular looking pattern, and repeat this all over your paper. It helps if you mark one corner on the back of your stamp so you can use it to position your stamp. Think of it like a clock, and the dot starts at top right, then moves clockwise in a full rotation.



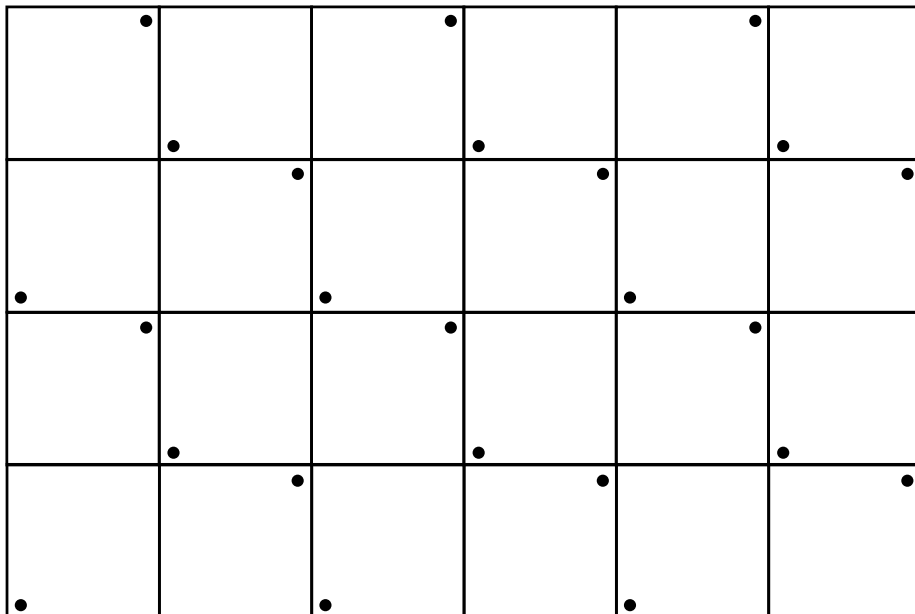
Quarter pattern



Try a different pattern by using half turns (this means turning your stamp upside down). It helps if you work in rows to create this pattern, alternating the way you start each row.

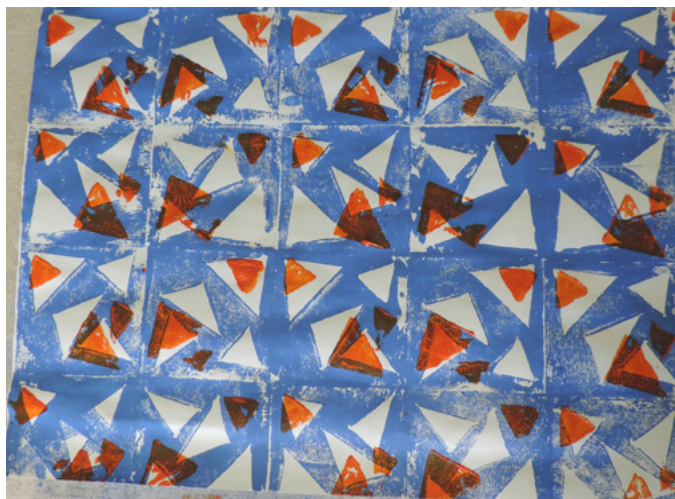
Let your prints dry.

Half pattern





Choose another colour for another layer. We liked the pattern we made using quarter turns and chose to use the same pattern with the stamp with triangles on it. We used a dark blue straight from the tube for our last print, so our design layers shades of blue from light through to dark.



Be creative and experiment with different patterns and colour combinations. This is another print we made on white paper, using the **COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS** of blue and orange with different stamps and patterns.

Use the hashtag #heideathome or send your prints to programs@heide.com.au to share with the Heide community.