



## Studio Sunday on the Front Steps June 2017 Activity Oil Pastels

Pull collagraph prints from collaged surface plates treated with oil pastel, inspired by Malcolm Morley's *Arles/Miami* portfolio.

For this project you will need:

- Fine printmaking paper
- Matte board "plates"
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Cheesecloth
- Oil pastels
- Small cup of baby oil and brush
- Tray of water for soaking paper, and towel for drying paper



Malcolm Morley, *Untitled*, 1973, From the portfolio, *Arles/Miami*.  
Lithograph. SBMA, Gift of Richard A. Brodie.

Let's begin!

1. Fill the tray with water and soak one sheet of printmaking paper.
2. While the paper soaks, cut a length of cheesecloth and color it with oil pastel.
3. Fold and glue the colored cheesecloth onto the matte board plate, with the colored side facing up.
4. Use the brush and baby oil to coat the cheesecloth to loosen the oil pastel pigment for printing.
5. Remove the paper from the water and press off the excess water with the towel.
6. Lay the printmaking paper directly over the matte board plate with oil pastel, and press gently to transfer the pigments to the paper.

Tips & Tricks

- Oil pastels can be difficult to work with when new; try coloring with them on another surface to warm up and soften the pastel, or dip them lightly in the baby oil.
- Cheesecloth is delicate and will likely pull, tear, and fray when colored on—don't worry! This will create interesting textures in your final print.
- Experiment with the dampness of the paper, amount of baby oil, and saturation of color to get the right balance for your print—light use will result in a dry, faint print, while heavier use can result in a muddled, blotchy print. Think about what balance you would like in the print you create.
- The plate may be colored again to add more detail or to change or enhance the colors after being coated with the baby oil. If enough baby oil/pigment remains after the original print, another "ghost print" can be made.