



Studio Sunday on the Front Steps August 2017 Activity Mat Board Prints

Create an embossed print from a raised surface plate, and then use watercolors to paint it. Inspired by Azechi Umetarō's *Skier (Sukiya)*, on view in *You Are Going On A Trip: Modern and Contemporary Prints from the Permanent Collection*.

For this project you will need:

- Fine printmaking paper
- Mat board "plates"
- Various pieces of mat board
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Watercolors
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Tray of water for soaking paper
- Towel for drying paper



Azechi Umetarō, *Skier (Sukiya)*, 1955. Color woodblock. SBMA, Gift of Carol L. Valentine.

Let's begin!

1. Fill the tray with water and soak one sheet of printmaking paper.
2. While the paper soaks, cut shapes out of mat board and glue them to the mat board plate to create a raised image.
3. Remove the paper from the water and press off the excess moisture with the towel.
4. To create an embossed image on the paper, lay the printmaking paper directly over the raised image on the mat board. Using your fingers, press firmly around the raised pieces on the mat board plate.
5. Remove the paper from the mat board plate. Using the watercolors, paint in the shapes of the embossed image.

Tips & Tricks

- Vary the thickness of the shapes of mat board you use to create your image, either by using different types of paper or by layering them on top of each other. This will create more depth in your final print.
- You may also want to use textured papers, like corrugated cardboard, in your assembled image to add variety.
- A popsicle stick, spoon, or other tool may be useful to help define the edges and depth of shapes during the embossing step.