

Colorful Engraving Activity

Take inspiration from JANM's permanent collection to create a colorful drawing of your surroundings using a direct engraving technique.



(Japanese American National Museum, 2001.34.1)

Collection Connection

JANM's collections are full of artworks by Japanese American artists and makers, including this woodblock print of the Seattle Fremont Bridge by Nisei Nobuko Yanagimachi. Born in Seattle in 1909, Nobuko attended the University of Washington as a fine arts major, graduating in 1932. She chose this major wanting to receive a college education, and art was the only major open to women of color at the time. Nobuko "retired" from making art after her graduation and became a social worker. However, she recalls that she would often paint, draw, or sculpt scenic views of the surrounding Seattle area for her coursework. This engraving, made in 1932, was most likely created as part of a school project during her studies.

Now it's your turn!

There are many different types of engraving methods, but one of the most fun is a direct engraving technique called scratchboard art! You'll need a piece of white paper, several colorful crayons, a black crayon, and a toothpick or paperclip. Here's what you'll do:

- Cover your paper with colorful crayon shapes and colors. Lighter colors often work best for this part. Be sure to press hard!
- Using the black crayon, color over the colorful crayon. Again, be sure to press down hard so you get a thick layer of black crayon on your paper.
- Now it's time to engrave a design! Using a toothpick or opened paperclip, scratch a design into the black crayon to reveal the colors below. Like Nobuko, you can take inspiration from your surroundings to inform your design.



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