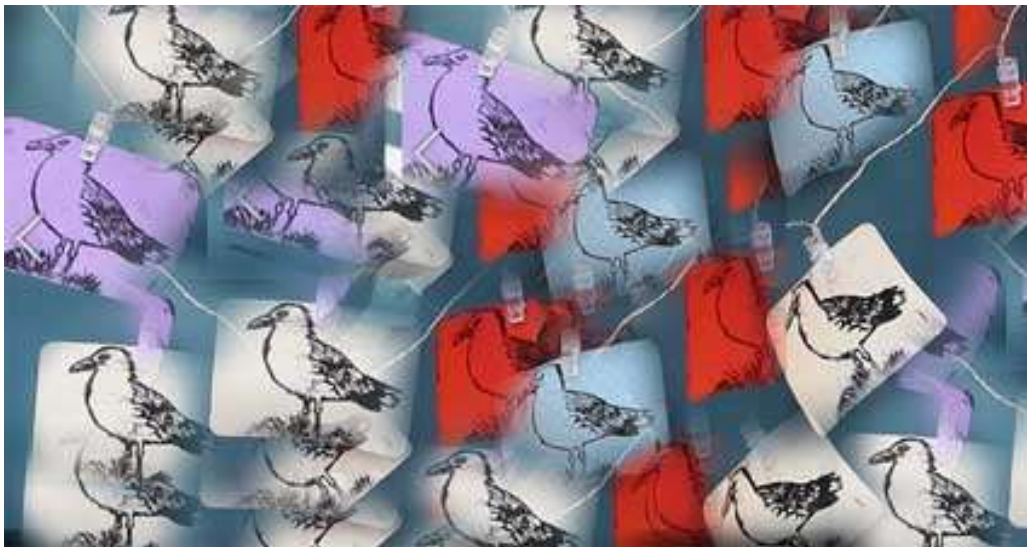


Kitchen Lithography/ Cola Lithography - A Flock of Seagulls



Hi I am Julia and I am going to introduce you to the magical art of Kitchen Lithography. This is a great way to make many prints from just one drawing.

In this lesson I will be drawing a seagull called Beaky. Beaky is a typical herring gull and can often be found in the west end of Morecambe dancing on the winds above the waves or popping inland for the remains of a fish and chip supper.

I am going to make my images postcard sized. The size is A6 or 15cm by 10cm. To get you started I have included an old fashioned postcard sized template as well as a couple of seagull drawings for you to copy or trace if you wish. I like the idea of postcards because they are small and easy to display you can also pop them in the post and send them to your friends and family keeping in touch and showing off your artwork at the same time.

Another way to show off a selection of small prints is to peg them onto a string and display them at home or in the Window. You might also want to mount and frame them as limited edition prints.

What you will need – Materials List

Strong Kitchen Foil Strong Card, cereal box will do Paper or card for printing on Tape 'Sharpie' permanent marker pens Talc for dusting Small container Recycled cloths or Kitchen roll Newspaper Baking Sheet (White baking sheet also works as tracing paper)	Cola Vegetable oil Oil Paint Baking Tray Foam Roller Sponge (x2) plastic containers larger plastic containers, washing up bowl or sink
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Step 1 - How to make a Kitchen Lithography plate

First of all you need to prepare a printing plate to draw on. We are going to make ours with card and aluminium foil. I recommend making more than one plate so you can experiment.



Materials List for your Lithography plate

- Scissors
- Extra strong kitchen foil
- Strong card (use a piece/s of cereal packet cut it to about A6, 10cm by 15cm)
- Newspaper
- Sticky tape
- Baking sheet or tracing paper
- Pencil
- Cola
- Talc, corn flour or arrowroot
- 'Sharpie' Permanent Marker Pen

To create the lithography plate

Cut your foil to approximately two and half times the size of your card. Place your card on top of your sheet of foil. Make sure your foil is shiny side up as you are going to be drawing on the dull side of the foil. Wrap the foil around the card and secure it with tape.



Make sure that any exposed card is fully covered with tape as you want to avoid it getting wet. Turnover and you have your drawing plate. Make a couple so you can experiment with the technique.



Take some very fine sandpaper and give the plate a very gentle sanding this helps your drawing grip to the surface.

Step 2 Make your Drawing

Draw your picture. You can use a Sharpie marker or other permanent marker pen. The colour of the pen doesn't matter because it's the colour you print it with that counts. You can experiment with both thick and fine lines. If you want you can trace your image onto the foil first. As well as Sharpies any oil based drawing medium will work but I find Sharpie or other permanent marker pens are best for beginners.



NOTE try and keep your fingers off your plate as finger marks are greasy and can print along with your drawing. I find that a spare piece of paper or kitchen roll is good to lean on and stops you putting your fingers on the plate when you are drawing.

Once you have drawn your picture you are ready for the magical chemical bit. This is where we use the magic of cola which contains Phosphoric acid. Phosphoric acid changes the surface of the metal plate changing the exposed areas from hydrophilic to hydrophobic. You will need a plastic container to contain the cola alternatively you can do it over the sink. I recommend wearing gloves.



Hold your plate with the image face up and carefully pour cola on to it for between three and five seconds. Not too long or the cola will get under your drawing and you will lose some detail. Look carefully while processing and you will see that the drawing will fizz with bubbles.

Rinse the cola off with a cup of cold water.

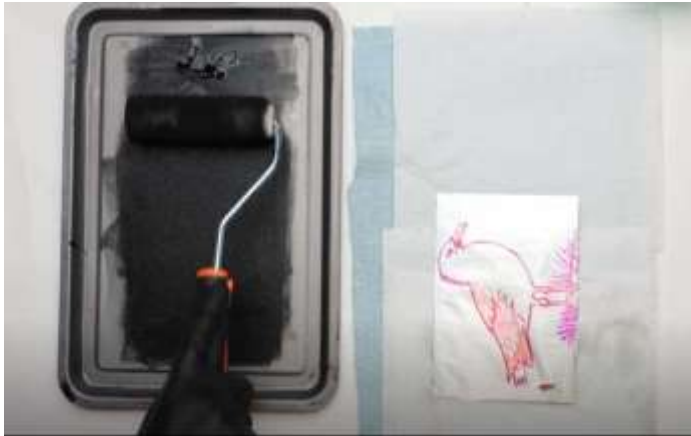
You can also use flat cola for processing but it will take longer. If you want to try this I suggest leaving you plate immersed in cola for at least 8 seconds.

Pat your plate dry with kitchen roll or dry cloth.

Take a couple of drops of cooking oil (rapeseed, sunflower, vegetable most varieties will do) and wipe gently over the plate with kitchen roll. Use a fresh piece of kitchen roll or clean dry cloth to wipe the plate clean.



Prepare your tray with paint/ink you can use a kitchen tray and a foam decorating roller. Mix up or squeeze out your chosen paint colour onto your baking tray or other suitable surface. Roll the foam roller in the paint, and make sure that it is evenly covered with paint but not sticky and overlaiden. Roll it out onto a clear area of the tray and keep rolling back and forth until you have a smooth velvety surface of ink. It should make a wispy sound as you roll. Now put your roller down for a moment



Next you will need a small bowl of water and a spongy cloth like the ones you might use for washing up. I like the silicone ones but most regular foam washing up sponges will work. Wet the sponge squeezing the excess but leaving it damp.

Squeeze a little bit of water from the damp sponge onto your plate and gently spread it across. You want a thin film of water across your plate before you apply ink.



Take your prepared roller ready with paint and roll it gently across your drawing in one direction. Roll lightly lifting the roller after each roll. After a couple of rolls wipe the plate again with the damp sponge to ensure you still have a thin layer of water. Roll in this way three or four times. You will see that your paint gathers in the lines of your drawing. Sometimes the ink scums into blank areas of your drawing you can remove this excess ink with a damp sponge as you go along.

Your plate is ready to print. Put a clean dry piece of newspaper down on your working surface. Put your plate on top of the paper facing upright and arrange it centrally. Now take your paper or card for printing. With clean hands smooth your paper or card on to the surface of your plate

Next you are going to print your picture using a wooden spoon. To protect the back of your paper or postcard while printing I suggest putting a piece of baking sheet on top of your paper



Use the back of a wooden spoon to print with (a metal spoon will also work). Press down firmly and move the spoon in circular motions across the whole of your plate. You can use the weight of your other hand to make sure the paper doesn't move while you are printing.

If you want to check how the print is going keep one hand pressed down firmly and lift gently from the corner with the other hand. If you don't think it's ready yet but the paper is back down and continue until it's done.

When it's ready carefully peel off your paper and reveal your finished print.



Then do another following all the steps

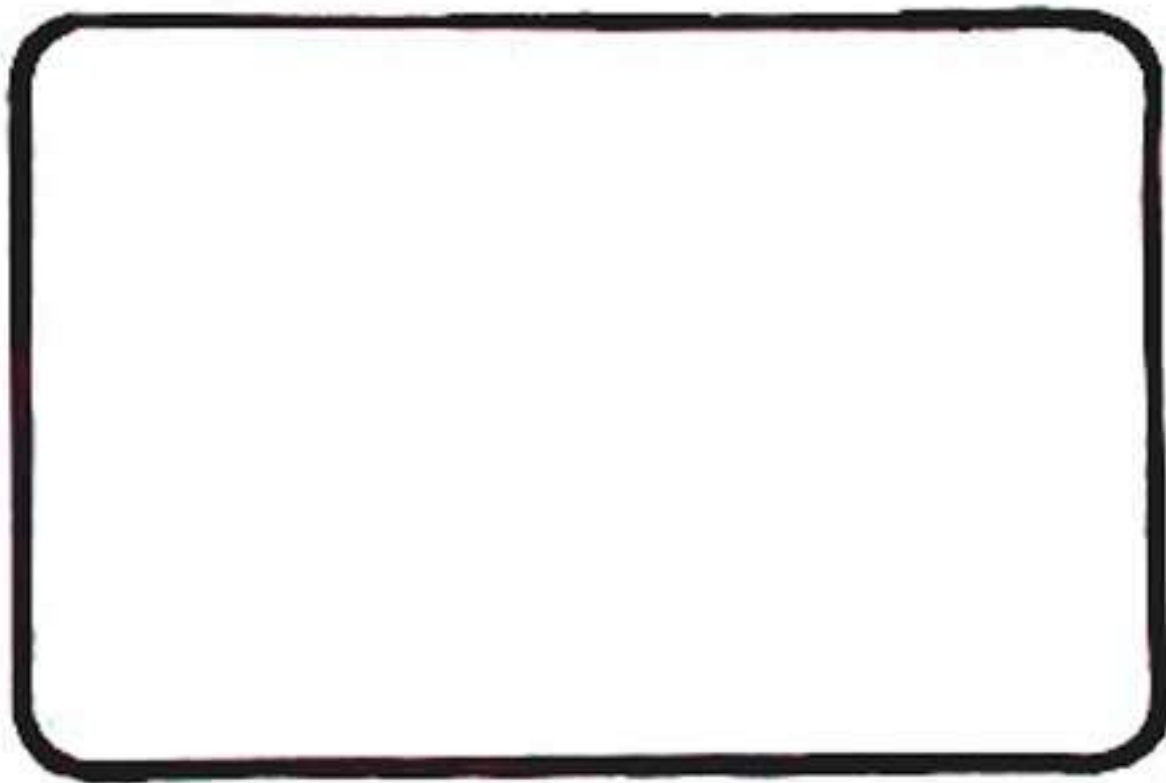
Then do another....

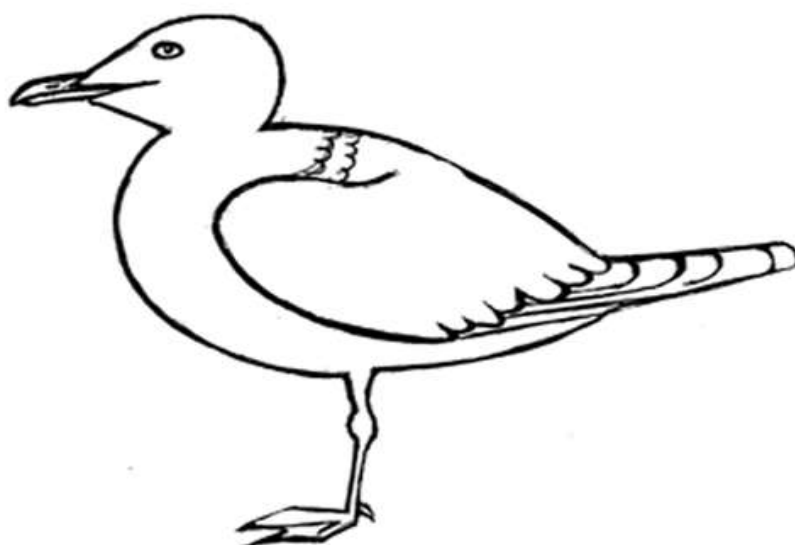
Have a go with the technique. When you have had some practice you might want to have a go at doing two or even three colours to do that you will need two or three plates the same size. Process your second plate in the same way and line it up to print.



This activity is suitable for adults of all ages and abilities. Children can actively make the plates, draw and pour the cola but I recommend adult supervision particularly when working and applying oil paint. Some adults might also need support. Gloves and old clothing are also a good idea because oil paint can be difficult to remove from clothes. Oil paint can be cleaned off working surfaces with old cloths and vegetable oil rather than turps or white spirit.

Template for Postcard





Template for Seagull trace

