

## INSTRUCTIONS:

# SUBTRACTIVE MONOTYPE

## using Akua Kolor

Rostow & Jung  
**Akua**  
**Kolor**



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The **subtractive monotype**, also known as the reductive monotype, or dark field monotype, is a monotype print created by first rolling up the plate with a flay layer of ink. The image is then wiped out of the darkened field, with a variety of tools such as rags, cotton swabs, stiff brushes, cards, and sticks.

### MATERIALS

- Akua Kolor (select a variety of colors)
- Akua Kolor Retarder
- Akua Intaglio Transparent Base (optional)
- Tack Thickener (optional)
- Akua Release Agent (for ghost prints)
- Smooth printmaking paper
- Wiping materials: lint free rags, tissue paper, cotton swabs, sticks, pieces of mat boards etc.

### EQUIPMENT

- Etching Press
- Brayers (soft rubber)
- Clear Plastic monotype plate

### ROLLING-UP AKUA KOLOR

Roll Akua Kolor directly onto the surface of the plate. There is no need to roll up on a separate slab and transfer the ink. It is best to roll out small amounts of ink and then add a little more, slowly building up the ink on the plate. If too much ink is added all at once, your brayer will slip, slide and will not be able to roll. The steps below are intended for printing with a press on dry paper.

### STEPS:

1. Mix ink by shaking bottle well.
2. Add a few drops of ink to the center of the printing plate. (Small plates: about 2–3 drops, medium plates about 5-10 drops, large plates: about 10-20 drops.)
3. Add 2 drops of Retarder into the ink and mix with edge of brayer.

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4. Roll the ink evenly over the entire plate with a soft rubber brayer. The ink should be thin on the plate.
5. Lift the printing plate up to see how intense the color looks through a light source. If more intensity is preferred, wait a few minutes and then continue adding a few more drops of ink to the plate. Waiting allows the ink on the plate time to slightly stiffen so the following layers of ink can adhere. It will also prevent the roller from sliding.
6. Print, or continue adding drops of ink and rolling-up the plate until the desired density is reached. Retarder should only be added to the first roll-up layer of ink. Adding Retarder to the next layer will cause the previous layer of ink to lift off.

## TIP

The number of layers needed to reach a solid, opaque color with Akua Kolor on the plate depends on the pigment of the particular ink. Some pigments cover more readily than others. Examples: (Black: 8-10 layers) (Yellow: 3 layers) Blues & Blacks are the hardest to reach full opacity, while yellows and reds are the easiest.

## CREATING THE IMAGE

Once the plate is covered with ink it is ready to be drawn on. Working spontaneously may offer greater freedom to explore color, lines and textural effects. A sketch may offer tighter registration possibilities. If working from a sketch, keep it simple and use a thick black marking pen. Place the sketch underneath the inked plastic plate for guidance. If it is difficult to see the sketch, use a light box or hold the plate up to a window. Create the image by wiping away areas of color from the inked surface of the plate. For wiping materials use rags, tissue paper, cotton swabs, sticks, cut pieces of matte boards for creating sharp lines.

## Multi-Color Registered Plates

An endless range of colors can be achieved by over-printing transparent layers using printing one color on top of another. For best results, start with light colors and work up to dark colors. For example print in this order; yellows, reds, blues and then blacks.

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## TIPS

- For brilliant color, apply the ink thinly to the plate. Thick layers of Akua Kolor may produce a muddy appearance on the finished print. Typically, it may take about 4 to 8 transparent over prints to achieve intensely colored Akua Kolor monotypes.
- Akua Kolor pigments are transparent or semi-transparent, similar to water colors. To get a darker color, use more ink. To get a lighter color, use less ink.
- An etching press will be necessary for printing roll-up layers of Akua Kolor. When printing by hand add Tack Thickener to Akua Kolor or use Akua Intaglio inks.
- After printing, it is not necessary to clean the plate before rolling –up again with a darker color. The ink residue will help build up a new layer of ink. However, clean the plate when rolling up from dark to light.
- **Extender** can be added to Akua Kolor to dilute the pigment and create a more transparent ink without affecting the consistency.
- Use Akua Intaglio **Transparent Base** (for heavier roll up coats with color transparency). Add as much or as little as you like.
- Use Akua Kolor **Tack Thickener** (for heavier roll up coats with more color intensity) Mix about 20% Tack Thickener with Akua Kolor. With too much Tack Thickener the ink becomes grainy. This grainy texture can easily be smoothed out by adding a few drops of Blending Medium
- For heavier roll up coats with maximum color opacity use **Akua Intaglio Inks**. Akua Intaglio inks can be printed on top Akua Kolor or Akua Kolor can be printed on top of Akua Intaglio inks. Akua Kolor can also be mixed directly into Akua Intaglio ink.
- Produce a second lighter version (Ghost Print) by rolling Release Agent over the remaining residue of ink on the plate. Wait 3 minutes after Release Agent is applied and then print again on another sheet of paper.

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