

Relief Printmaking Course (8 weeks)

Instructor: Lena B. Ellis-Boatman, Artist-Owner of Rhizome Studio
Location: Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Room: Studio One
Dates: Thursday evenings 6:00-8:00pm, January 30 – March 20
Cost: \$280-\$340 sliding scale + supplies (most tools provided)
Class Size: 12 participants maximum (minimum 5)
Ages: Adults and teens ages 14+
Skill Level: All (beginners welcome!)

Accessibility: Studio One can be accessed stair-free via an elevator. Please use the sign-up form to state other accessibility needs. Questions? Please email lena@rhizomeartstudio.com.

Safety Note: This course involves using sharp tools. Participants must sign a waiver.

Course Description:

In this 8-week course, you will learn how to design your own artistic images, carve them into linoleum blocks, and hand-print them using water-based and oil-based inks. Learning these processes will allow you to make prints at your own kitchen table – no printmaking press required! We will start with basic printing skills and then move on to creating and carving your first 1-layer design.

After you've printed your first design, we'll explore more advanced processes, including reductive relief and creating a design from multiple lino blocks. As a class, we'll view and discuss everyone's work, and you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with classmates. We'll also cover some history and learn about design principles, a little color theory, and contemporary printmaking.

This course can be individually tailored as needed (a benefit of the small class size). That makes it suitable for a wide range of makers, from beginners with zero art background to experienced artists who want to try out relief printmaking – or get back into it!

Is This Course Really for Me?

- You're welcome to take this course as a social activity with a friend or loved one – or show up solo and meet new people!
- Maybe you're interested in studying art in college, and you want to learn more about different specializations, like printmaking.
- Maybe you got to make a relief print one time and you've never had the chance to try it again – until now.
- Do you have a lot of past experience with art? You could approach this course as an artistic "reboot" to jumpstart your creativity!

About Your Instructor:

Hi, I'm Lena! My pronouns are xé/xem (they/them is fine, too). I'm a printmaker, artist, and art educator. I love teaching. I earned my BFA degree in printmaking and painting from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where I also studied art education. I later graduated from Michigan State University with my MFA degree in printmaking. You can check out my website:

www.rhizomeartstudio.com or find me on Facebook: www.fb.com/rhizome.studio and on Instagram @rhizome.artstudio

I'm an older millennial, white, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I believe diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to education and to being in community together. I'm autistic (undiagnosed), and I've taught many neurodiverse college students. I'm kind of an outdoorsy geek – I love hiking and kayaking, but also science fiction and reading. I think of myself like this: Art is my career, teaching is my passion, and writing stories is my not-so-secret obsession.

I love teaching. I see our studio classroom as a creative community where we all work together and support each other. It's my job to help you succeed at learning new things about art. (If you want to know more about my professional experience as an educator, you can find that information at the bottom of this document.)

Tools & Supplies:

I provide reusable tools such as brayers, carving tools, and basic registration stations, as well as the supplies needed to get us started printing on the first day. However, you must find or purchase* your own supplies for weeks 2-8, including inks and paper. I'll provide a supply list in advance so you can plan ahead, and please feel free to email me with any questions!

**I recommend purchasing your supplies as a kit designed specifically for this class, available from Ypsi Art Supply on Huron Street, just a few doors down from Riverside Arts Center. To purchase a kit, please contact YAS owner Megan directly: hello@ypsiartsupply.com.*

Teens & Children:

Teens ages 14-17 are welcome to take this course (parent/guardian must sign for them). Younger teens or tweens are welcome to sign up if accompanied by an adult also taking the course. Childcare is not provided, but you are welcome to bring your children along if they can mostly keep themselves occupied and not disrupt the class.

How to Sign Up & Pay:

When you're ready to sign up, please email me: lena@rhizomeartstudio.com – I'll send you a link to a Google form and payment options. A \$100 deposit (per participant) is due when you sign up. (You are, of course, also welcome to pay in full.)

If the class must be cancelled due to low enrollment (fewer than five participants), you'll receive a full refund minus a \$15 admin fee. Otherwise, the \$100 deposit is non-refundable.

The deposit is applied to your total, and the balance is due on the first day of class. (If that payment date for the balance would prevent you from taking the course, please contact me regarding an alternative payment plan.)

You may pay your deposit by credit or debit card, PayPal Direct, or Venmo QR code. You may pay your balance by any of the above or by paper check made out to Rhizome Studio.

Sliding Scale & Discounts:

Sliding scale means “pay what you can” within the range given. For example, if you're doing well financially, you can choose to pay an amount in the middle or top end of the range. If you're doing pretty okay, but paying more would create a hardship, then you should pay the minimum

amount. For anyone paying for two or more participants, I offer a \$30 discount off the balance due on the first day of class.

Reduced-Cost Scholarships:

If you cannot afford the minimum amount for this course, you may email me to inquire about reduced-cost scholarship options. Unfortunately, I cannot promise that any scholarships will be available for any given course.

Class Capacity, Waitlist & People Joining Later:

Once five participants have signed up and paid their deposits, the sign-up period will continue until the class is full (12 participants). If the class fills, a waitlist will be available. If open spots remain available after the first class day, anyone signing up late may opt to pay a prorated amount (based on a rate of \$37.50 per class). Anyone interested in joining after the third class should be an adventuresome learner and/or have some past experience with printmaking.

Cancellations & Refunds:

If a would-be participant cancels before the first class, they forfeit their \$100 deposit. (If they paid in full prior to the first class, they will receive a refund of their total payment minus the \$100 deposit.) If a participant has started the course, but finds they need to withdraw due to emergency, health, or other unexpected circumstances, please contact me to discuss a possible partial refund.

If the instructor must cancel a class date due to illness or emergency, a make-up date will be scheduled. If a student does not or cannot attend a class date, no refund will be issued.

Questions, Thoughts, or Concerns?

Please email me at lena@rhizomeartstudio.com.

Lena's Professional Experience (just in case you wanna know):

I've been teaching college-level art courses since 2012 (at MSU, Adrian College, Saginaw Valley State University, the College for Creative Studies, and Washtenaw Community College). As an AmeriCorps member, I worked with youth artists at the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo and the Toledo School for the Arts. I've taught youth art programs in drawing and printmaking at REACH Studio Art Center in Lansing and a teen program and a relief printmaking workshop for the Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum in East Lansing.

I currently teach Art 101 and drawing courses at Washtenaw Community College, and I also facilitate art programs for Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti.