

Relief Printmaking I (4 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

Times: Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm

Dates: September 3, 10, 17, 24

Cost: \$190-\$220 sliding scale + supplies (see supply list)

Class Size: 12 participants maximum (minimum 6)

Ages: Adults and teens ages 14+

Skill Level: All (beginners welcome!)

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

Description:

In this 4-week class, you will learn how to design your own artistic images, carve them into linoleum blocks, and hand-print them without a press. Learning these processes will allow you to make prints at your own kitchen table – no press required!

We will start with basic printing skills on Day 1 and then move on to creating and carving your first design. After you've printed your first design, we'll build on what you've learned to create and print your second design. As a class, we'll view and discuss everyone's work, and you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with classmates if you choose. We'll also cover some history and learn a little about design principles, color theory, and contemporary printmaking.

This class 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 Class Really for Me?

- You're welcome to take this class 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 class 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](https://www.facebook.com/rhizome.studio) and on Instagram @rhizome.artstudio

I'm an older millennial, white, and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I believe compassion, open-hearted listening, a growth mindset, and fostering a sense of belonging are all essential in 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:

Lena provides reusable tools such as brayers, carving tools, basic hand-printing stations, and access to the press, 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 2-4, including inks and paper. Please see the supply list and purchase your supplies in advance. Please email Lena with any questions: lena@rhizomeartstudio.com!

**I recommend purchasing your supplies from Ypsi Art Supply (www.ypsiartsupply.com) on Huron Street in downtown Ypsilanti. To check availability, please contact YAS owner Megan directly: hello@ypsiartsupply.com.*

Alternatively, you can order your supplies online from Blick (www.dickblick.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.**

How to Sign Up & Pay:

When you're ready to sign up, please use the Google form or email me: lena@rhizomeartstudio.com – I'll send you a link to a Google form and payment options. A \$65 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 \$10 admin fee. Otherwise, the \$65 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. 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 \$20 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:

If five participants have signed up and paid their deposits by the sign-up deadline, the course will run and additional participants may sign up 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 \$47.50 per class).

Cancellations & Refunds:

If a would-be participant cancels before the first class, they forfeit their \$65 deposit. (If they paid in full prior to the first class, they will receive a refund of their total payment minus the \$65 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 Lena at lana@rhizomeartstudio.com.

Lena's Professional Experience:

Lena has been teaching college-level art courses since 2012 (at Michigan State University, Adrian College, Saginaw Valley State University, the College for Creative Studies, and Washtenaw Community College). As an AmeriCorps member, Lena worked with youth artists at the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo and the Toledo School for the Arts. Xé has 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.

In addition to teaching xyr own Rhizome Studio classes, Lena currently teaches Art 101 and drawing courses at Washtenaw Community College, and xé periodically teaches art classes at Whitepine Studios in Saline and Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti.