“Architectural Reflection Prints”

**Objective:** Create a series of prints to portray a famous architectural structure set within a fantasy cityscape.

**Materials**
- Styrofoam printing plates (4”x6”)
- Pens
- Watercolor Paint
- Watercolor Paper (9”x12”)
- Brayers, Ink Trays and Printing Ink

**Motivation**
- Introduce the lesson with an overview of architectural structures from around the world. The posted worksheet can be used as a guide for students’ independent research about a particular structure.
- Consider creating a list of structures you would like students to choose from. Get started with [this list from AOE](#).

**Step 1: Paint Background Paper**
Have students draw a horizon line on their watercolor paper and use different watercolor techniques to paint above and below the line to create sky and water spaces.

**Step 2: Sketch and Indent**
Have students choose a structure and sketch it on their research worksheet. Then, have them transfer that sketch to the Styrofoam by taping the sketch to the Styrofoam and tracing over it with a pen. Have students add additional buildings or elements around the structure to fill in the extra space on the foam printing plate.

**Step 3: Ink and Print**
Demonstrate how to ink and print the foam. Students should line up the foam on one side of the paper, print it and then immediately flip it downward to print a “reflection” print without re-inking. Continue this process until the entire span of the horizon line has been printed.

**Tip:** Cutting off the negative space around the structures before printing gives the prints a clean, clear look.

**Tip:** Suggest students create various backgrounds with the watercolor paint: night scenes, colorful sunsets, stormy skies, etc.

**Tip:** Encourage students to create multiple prints for reflection and process evaluation.

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