



Teaching Manual
NEOCOLOR[®]





Introduction

In 1952, Caran d'Ache developed the first NEOCOLOR I. This water-resistant wax pastel with its extraordinary bright and opaque colours became soon popular with amateur and professional artists. The product was developed further and in 1975 Caran d'Ache introduced the water-soluble NEOCOLOR II onto the market. The palette now offers 126 colour tones, including 10 metallic colours. And even though NEOCOLOR I and NEOCOLOR II are well known all over the world – their composition remains a secret! The wax pastels are still manufactured completely in Thônex, Geneva.

Today, NEOCOLOR I and NEOCOLOR II are standard equipment for Swiss schoolrooms. No other colouring product is so well suited to such diverse uses! We wanted to address this area through this publication. Inside, you'll find a lot of exciting art ideas for lessons: from simple paper batik to work on various backgrounds to more advanced printing techniques!

The topic of "Humans and figures" is also a recurring theme throughout this teaching aid. Children should be encouraged to take an artistic interest in themselves and other people at every age. By doing so, they learn to observe forms and how to work with colours. Initial drawings of people when small children are still at the scribbling stage can still express a lot through their simple forms and elementary concepts. Later, these are replaced by more sophisticated perceptions and representations. The water-resistant NEOCOLOR I and water-soluble NEOCOLOR II are a handy, ideal way for schoolchildren of all ages to express themselves.

Editorial

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This publication is based on the out-of-print Caran d'Ache Teaching Aid 9 "Neocolor". Some contributions and ideas have been taken directly from there. We would like to thank the editorial team that was originally responsible for Teaching Aid 9 (led by Ruedi Pfirter and Kurt Ulrich) for their valuable work.

Most lesson examples were created as part of creative project days at various schools in Switzerland. We would like to thank all the teachers and pupils who worked with us:

Trüllikon nursery and primary school in ZH, Sils i.E. nursery and primary school in GR, Elementa day school in Menzingen ZG, Truttikon primary school in ZH, Silvaplana primary and secondary school in GR, Baggwil secondary school in BE

Further information

The colours red, blue and yellow indicate the age groups for which the lesson examples are most suitable. You can, however, modify the exercises slightly to suit older or younger children.

- **Ages, 14 – 19 years**
- **Ages, 10 – 13 years**
- **Ages, 4 – 9 years**

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N° 7000
Produit en France
Fabriqué en France
Distribué en France
Distributeur exclusif en France



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Stencilling multi-layered flower pictures

Stencilling is a very simple printing technique that is particularly suitable for young children (years 4-9). You can create fascinating effects and combine these with other printing processes. You can use thin cardboard or stiff glossy paper (e.g. the cover sheet of a block of drawing paper) for the stencils. The children can then draw their flower shapes on these and cut them out with scissors or a sharp knife. The actual motif (positive form) and the cardboard left behind (negative) can both be used as stencils.

In addition to traditional poster paints and special printing inks, NEOCOLOR II (water-soluble wax pastels) is also ideal for stencilling. The children place their stencils on the paper and hold them in place with a finger. They use a damp sponge to take colour from a palette previously painted with NEOCOLOR II. If you use glossy plasticised paper as the stencil, the colours can be applied straight onto the form with dry NEOCOLOR II and then swirled around with a damp sponge or fingers.



■ ■ Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **nursery and primary school** (years 4-9) in Sils i.E. GR



Cut the stencils out of thin card. Apply Neocolor II from a palette using a damp sponge. Carefully transfer the shape onto the paper using the stencil.



Materials

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
Drawing or watercolour paper (170 g/m²)
Cardboard
(various formats and thicknesses)
Scissors, cutter
Sponges
Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)





Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **Secondary school** (years 10-13), Baggwil BE



Materials

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
NEOPASTEL (soft oil pastels)
Photos of the children
(black and white copies, A5)
Drawing or watercolour paper (170 g/m²)
Coloured drawing paper (black)
Watercolour brush
Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)
Ballpoint pen

Tracing paper creative colour copies

Tracing is usually limited to simply copying a motif. However, if you use multi-colour tracing paper and work on a coloured background, this simple copying technique can produce amazing colour effects. As a template, you can use linear motifs printed on normal copying paper (80 g/m²). To trace the image, the children colour the reverse side of the template entirely with NEOPASTEL (oil pastels). In general, we recommend that dark colours be used for this background colouring, as otherwise the tracings won't show up enough on the coloured background.

The children can use NEOCOLOR II to colour in the watercolour paper: first paint the colours onto a smooth palette and then transfer it onto the paper in translucent layers with a brush (wide, translucent, coloured areas). Once the tracing paper is dry, lay it carefully onto the watercolour paper with the coloured side underneath and fix it in place in two areas so that the template doesn't slip. The children can then trace over their motifs with a ballpoint pen and check the result from time to time by carefully lifting a corner.

A more challenging version of this technique is working on black paper. Colour the tracing paper white on the back. This means that the children are working from light to shade – the lightest elements are printed through during tracing. This process requires the children to think more closely about the subject and is therefore more suited to pupils in the higher classes (years 7-13).



Colour drawing paper using transparent layers of Neocolor II. Apply a thick layer of colour to the reverse side of the template and trace over the motif with a ballpoint pen.



Relief printing cardboard compositions

You can use standard cardboard and thick paper to make versatile print forms and create a lot of different effects. The children cut their motifs out of cardboard (average thickness) and stick them in several layers onto a mounting plate. Remember when using characters that the print will be the mirror image of the original. To finish, the printing block is sealed with a coat of cold water-resistant white glue. This means the printed form remains stable and can be used several times. After the glue dries, the relief can be coloured generously with NEOCOLOR II.

Now it's time for the actual printing. Like most printing techniques, the results are better if you use absorbent paper. First, moisten the paper with a clean sponge on a separate table. It is important that the sheet of paper is thoroughly damp, but not dripping with water. The children should carry their piece of paper carefully back to their workstation and place it on the printing plate (best done in pairs). Then they press carefully on the paper with their hands (but no rubbing!).

The colourful designs and structures gradually come through on the damp paper. If necessary, you can moisten the paper again from behind with a water spray. This step is crucial to the success of the printing: if the paper is moistened unevenly, the picture will be blotchy. If the paper is too damp, the colours will run together and the structures will be lost. The children can check their print by carefully lifting up a corner. When they are happy with their print, they can remove the paper entirely from the cardboard and leave the print to dry on a clean surface.



Examples:
Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **Secondary school** (years 10-13), Baggwil BE

Materials

NEOCOLOR II
 (water-soluble wax pastels)
 Printing paper (120 g/m²)
 Cardboard
 (various formats and thicknesses)
 White glue (cold water-resistant)
 Bristle brush
 Scissors, cutter
 Sponges
 Water sprays



Create the relief block by sticking together several layers of cardboard and seal with a coat of cold water-resistant white glue. After the glue has dried, the relief can be coloured with Neocolor II and the motif can be printed onto a moist and absorbent sheet of paper.



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Examples:
Primary school, secondary school (years 7-13), Trüllikon ZH



Copying make two out of one!

Copying is an exciting and simple print technique for primary school children that only requires a few materials. Pupils work with NEOCOLOR II on the smooth side of a piece of drawing paper. Clear symmetrical forms make the best motifs: flowers, trees, faces, houses or (as in our example) insects. The pupils can find templates in picture dictionaries or on the Internet.

First, fold the drawing paper so that the smooth surface is on the inside. When you open the sheet up again, the fold in the middle marks the axis of symmetry. Now the children should press down firmly and draw their motif on one half of the paper, filling the space with bright colours. It is important to press down firmly, otherwise there will not be enough colour on the paper for copying. Then the children spray water over both halves of the piece of drawing paper with a water spray and fold the sheet together again. Don't use too much water, as otherwise the colours will run together too much. Now the children should press on the paper with their hands and press along the fold separately with their thumbs. Open up the copied picture as quickly as possible, otherwise the two halves will stick together. You can repeat the print process as often as you like.

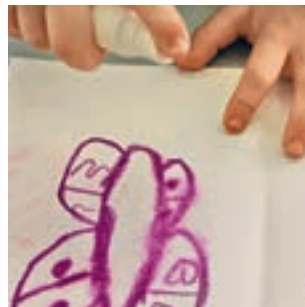
Materials

NEOCOLOR II

(water-soluble wax pastels)

Drawing paper (at least 150 g/m²)

Water sprays



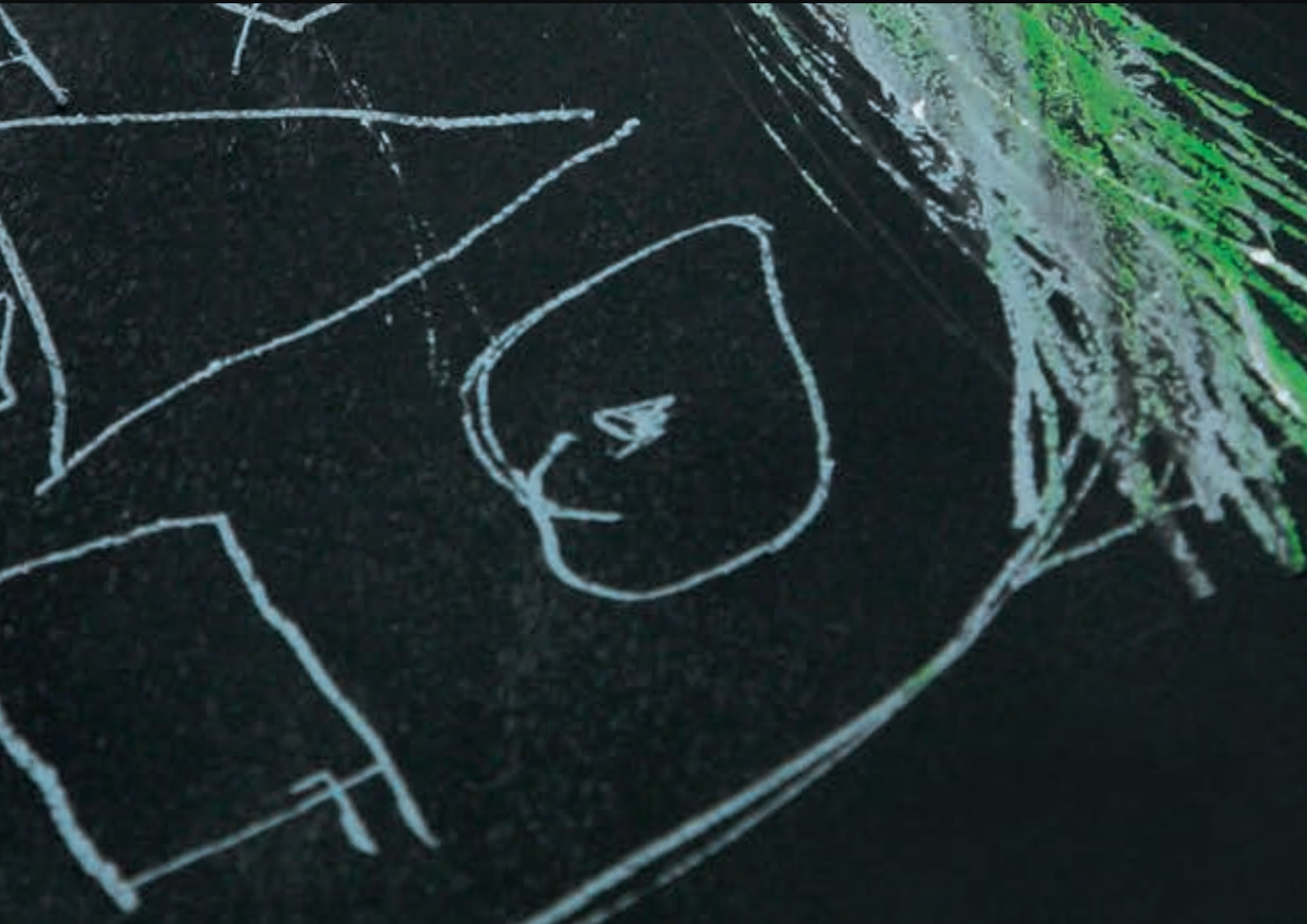
Paint half of the motif using Neocolor II. Spray the sheet of paper with a little water and fold the sheet in the middle. After pressing the two halves of the sheet together, carefully open the picture.





Materials

- ACRYLO (acrylic paint)
- NEOCOLOR I (water-resistant wax pastels)
- Glossy drawing paper (at least 120 g/m2)
- Foam roller
- Scratching tool





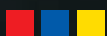
Paint the whole sheet with Neocolor I. Using a roller, apply a thin layer of dark acrylic paint over this. Scratch the motif into the surface using a sharp tool.



Sgraffito contrasting engraved pictures

Indian masks and woodcuttings from New Guinea are the templates for these contrasting scratching and engraving pictures. First, the children cover a glossy sheet of A3 paper with NEOCOLOR I (preferably with light colours). As the entire sheet of paper needs to be covered in colour, the children can lay the wax pastels flat to colour it in (without paper label). Place sheets of newspaper underneath with the edges folded up (3 – 4 cm). This stops coloured pastel flakes falling on the floor or making the table dirty.

Once the paper is covered completely, the children can paint over it with a thin layer of dark ACRYLO. It's best to use a foam roller for this. Once it dries, the acrylic paint forms a water-resistant, elastic film. Now the children can scratch coloured motifs into the dark surfaces using toothpicks and other tools. The resulting pictures look amazingly like the characters in the templates.



Examples:

Secondary school (years 10-13), secondary school in Basle focusing on maths/biology
Primary school (years 7-9), Elementa day school in Menzingen ZG

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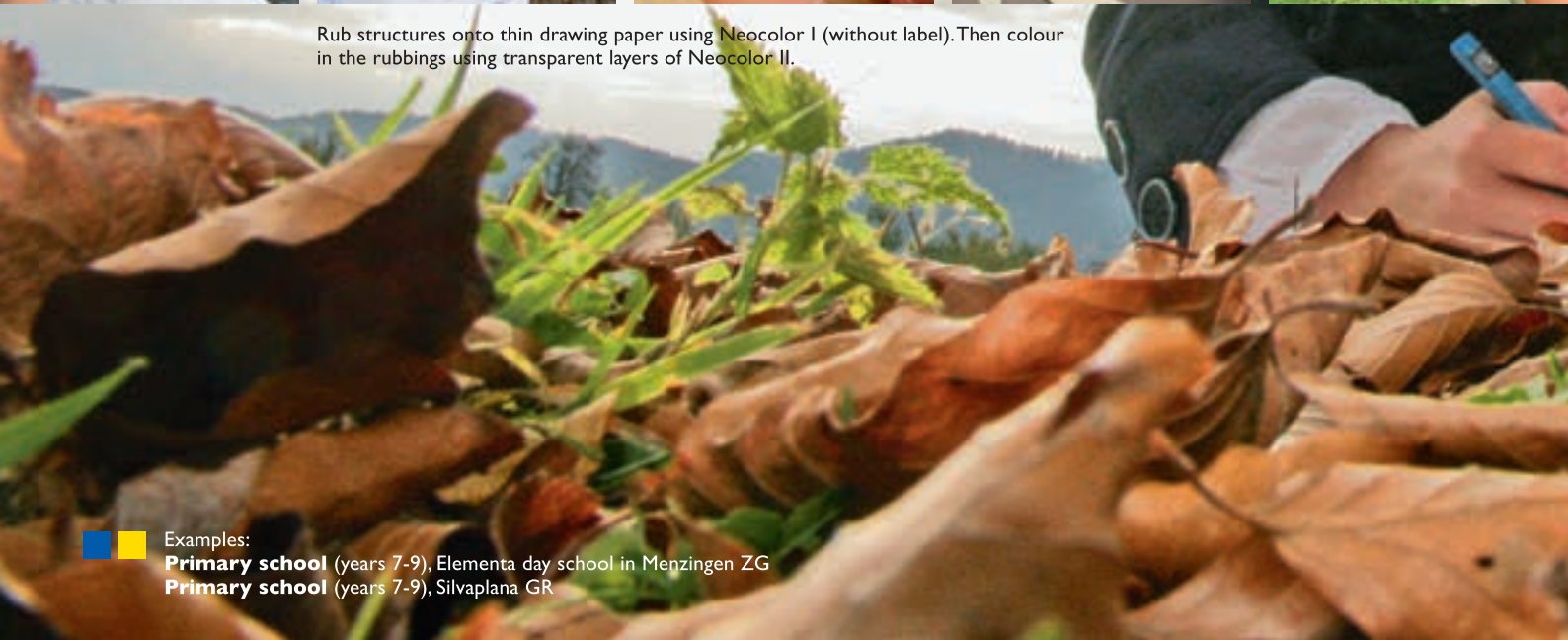
Rubbing on a structure safari

Get the children to look for interesting surfaces in the school building. They can use NEOCOLOR I to do a rubbing of relief-type structures onto thin drawing paper. Remove the paper labels from the pastels and lay them flat so that all the bumps in the structures come out on the paper. The best surfaces for this rubbing technique are wall and floor structures, shoe soles, wood, leaves, car number plates, house numbers etc.

The rubbing can then be used for all sorts of purposes: torn up and stuck on as a collage, for creating fantasy faces, colouring in the structures and creating an abstract picture from it. The children can also cut out more shapes (including representational ones) from chipboard. They can then combine their rubbings with the structures to create a picture. The children can use NEOCOLOR II to colour in the rubbings: first paint the colours onto a smooth palette and then transfer it onto the paper in translucent layers with a brush. The rubbing structures are water-resistant and can be seen through the transparent coloured layers.



Rub structures onto thin drawing paper using Neocolor I (without label). Then colour in the rubbings using transparent layers of Neocolor II.



**Materials**

NEOCOLOR I
(water-resistant wax pastels)

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)

Thin drawing paper (100 g/m²)

Watercolour brush

Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)



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Paint the hands with soluble Neocolor II using a small sponge to create a base coat.
Add to the structures and fine details using a brush or a piece of chalk.

Materials

- NEOCOLOR II *
(water-soluble wax pastels)
- Brush (various shapes and sizes)
- Decoration material
(feathers, marbles, wool)
- Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)
- Sponges
- Hand cream

*
NEOCOLOR II is not a cosmetic product
and has not been tested clinically.





Hand painting colourful animal figures

Whether it's a shimmering bird of paradise, a proud swan, a curious giraffe, a cunning snake or a barking dog ... with a few colours and good ideas, you can use your hands to create colourful animal figures. In the same way as shadow-puppet theatre, the children begin by imitating different animals with their fingers and hands. You can find lots of animal images on the Internet that you can create with just one hand or that need clever use of both hands.

To paint their hands, it's best if the children work in pairs. First, rub some slightly greasy hand cream into the skin that will be exposed to the paint. This pre-treatment will make it easier to wash the paint off at the end. The pupils can use NEOCOLOR II and a small sponge to create a base coat. You should mix up this colour paste a few days beforehand in small glass, using NEOCOLOR residues and a little water. Then the children can add to the details and structures with NEOCOLOR II. First, paint the colours onto a smooth palette and then transfer it onto the skin with a fine brush. Complete the temporary works of art with feathers, marbles and other decoration materials.





Paint flat stones or clay pots with Neocolor I. After each layer of colour has been applied, briefly polish the objects with a soft piece of cloth or kitchen paper.



Decorations stones, wood and clay pots

NEOCOLOR I is particularly suitable for painting hard, slightly porous surfaces. Stones, clay flowerpots or driftwood from nearby streams – everything can be painted and decorated with NEOCOLOR I. After each colour application, the children polish their objects with a soft piece of cloth or kitchen roll. This stops the excess colour smearing together and gives the surface a wonderful soft shine. Stones with a coarse-grained structure can also be heated briefly in an oven or on a hotplate – the NEOCOLOR pastels melt on the warm surface and are easier to apply.

There should be no limit on the imagination of the children during this project: the younger ones can transform pebbles from streams into sparkling jewels and lumps of gold. For this, they should mainly use the metallic tones of NEOCOLOR I Metallic. The older primary school children can paint animals and mythical creatures on larger stones or coloured clay pots, which they can then plant flowers in.

Materials

NEOCOLOR I
(water-resistant wax pastels)
Stones, pieces of wood, clay pots
Pieces of cloth



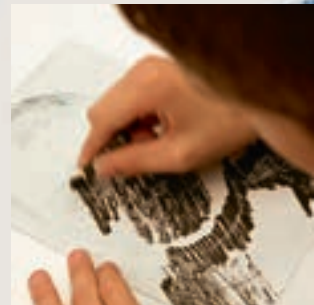
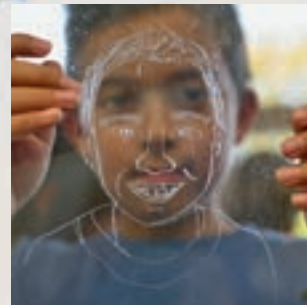


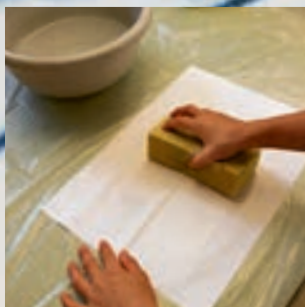
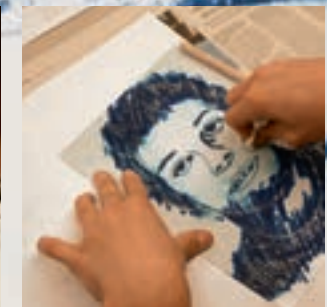
Gravure printing expressive etchings

Etching is a graphic gravure printing technique in which the motif is engraved into a metal plate with a so-called etching needle. The colour only adheres inside the engravings and is then transferred onto the paper with a printing press. For the lesson, we adapt this sophisticated technique using a simple plastic film (acetate), without the work losing its charm and expression. The children lay their templates under the transparent film and copy it by scratching along the lines with a sharp tool. As well as professional etching needles, you can also use cutters or nails. To check on work progress, colour the print block with NEOCOLOR II. Then wipe the excess colour off again with kitchen roll until only the linear scratched structure can be seen.

Now it's time for the actual printing. Like most printing techniques, the results are better if you use absorbent paper. First, moisten the paper with a clean sponge on a separate table. It is important that the sheet of paper is thoroughly damp, but not dripping with water. The children should carry their piece of paper carefully back to their workstation and place it on the printing plate (best done in pairs). Then they press carefully on the paper with their hands (but no rubbing!).

The colourful designs and structures gradually come through on the damp paper. If necessary, you can moisten the paper again from behind with a water spray. This step is crucial to the success of the printing: if the paper is moistened unevenly, the picture will be blotchy. If the paper is too damp, the colours will run together and the structures will be lost. The children can check their print by carefully lifting up a corner. When they are happy with their print, they can remove the paper entirely from the acetate film and leave the print to dry on a clean surface.





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Etch the portrait into a plastic film. Colour using Neocolor II and wipe off the excess paint. Print the motif onto moist, absorbent paper.

Materials

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
Printing paper (120 g/m²)
Acetate film (0.5 mm)
Photos of the children (black and white copies, A5)
Scratching tools
Sponges

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Encaustic drawing with heat

Drawing with heat is incredibly exciting and hands-on – it's worth creating an encaustic workshop! We suggest using old hotplates, tea lights under a baking tray or a rechaud/raclette oven as the heat source. Obviously you need to take special precautionary measures when working with hot equipment. Children must only be allowed to handle the equipment under adult supervision! As there probably won't be a separate workstation for each child, this technique is most suitable for a creative workshop lesson in combination with other art/design tasks.

How to do it: the pupils place a thick sheet of drawing paper on their hotplate and fix it in place with magnetic buttons. Now they draw with NEOCOLOR pastels (without paper labels) on the warm paper. It's fascinating to see how the pastels melt under the heat – varying the pressure means you can create thick lines or colour entire areas. This is an easy way to introduce the children to abstract art, the portrait art of the Expressionists and the colourfulness of the Fauvists.



Fix a thick sheet of drawing paper onto a hotplate using magnets. Draw with Neocolor pastels on the paper until the colours melt and create different paint effects.

Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **Primary school** (years 7-9), Trüllikon ZH



**Materials**

NEOCOLOR I
(water-resistant wax pastels)

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)

Thick drawing paper (170 g/m²)

Hotplates

Magnetic buttons

Scratching tools

Wooden spatula



Materials

- NEOCOLOR I
(water-resistant wax pastels)
- NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
- ACRYLO (white acrylic paint)
- Pencils (HB, B)
- Sketching paper
- Wood fibreboard (min. 20 x 20 cm)
- Sandpaper
- Bristle brush



Cover fibreboard with white acrylic paint. Sketch the outline of the portrait using dark Neocolor I and then colour in the picture using Neocolor II.



Examples:
Primary school (years 7-9), Elementa day school in Menzingen ZG

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Artist portraits on artist's board

The Expressionist paintings of Alexei von Jawlensky are the starting point for this colourful portrait series. Encourage the children to speak spontaneously about the faces, colours, forms and lines and make up stories about the people in the paintings. The teacher then defines the most important elements with simple forms on the blackboard. After that the children can draft their own portraits with a few lines on waste paper.

The rough side of a thin piece of wood fibreboard (e.g. Pavatex) can be used as the background for subsequent work with NEOCOLOR. First smooth the fibreboard slightly with sandpaper and then cover it in white ACRYLO paint. Please note: it is important to clean the brush with water immediately after this step, as acrylic paint dries very fast! Now the linear face structures can be transferred onto the painted artist's board with NEOCOLOR I (water-resistant). Finally, the children can colour the faces in with NEOCOLOR II (water-soluble), painting on the colours with a bristle brush and some water.





Paper batik surprising effects

The children sit in a circle and listen intently to their teacher reading from a colourful storybook. The story is about cunning mice and helpful dwarves. Then the children draw their heroes from the story they've just heard on thick drawing paper with NEOCOLOR I (water-resistant wax pastels). The linear figures can fill up the entire sheet of paper. For the batik effect, the children can use white candles. They can use them to structure the fur on the mice, the beards and clothes of the dwarves, the background...

The children can use NEOCOLOR II (water-soluble wax pastels) to colour in the pictures: first paint the colours onto a smooth palette and then transfer it onto the paper in translucent layers with a brush. Here, the children are working with the transition from light to dark. They will be fascinated to see how the watery colour rolls off the areas covered in wax. The linear NEOCOLOR drawing is water-resistant and shows through the transparent coloured areas. This creates colourful children's drawings that are fascinating in terms of their spontaneity and originality.

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Materials

NEOCOLOR I
(water-resistant wax pastels)

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)

Drawing or watercolour paper (200 g/m²)

Watercolour brush

Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)

Candles (white)

Draw the outlines onto a thick piece of paper using generous amounts of Neocolor I.
Structure the surfaces using traces of candle wax. Paint over it using transparent layers of Neocolor II.



Examples:
nursery and primary school (years 4-9), Trüllikon ZH
nursery and primary school (years 4-9), Sils i.E. GR

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Materials

NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
Drawing or watercolour paper (200 g/m²)
Watercolour brush, sponges
Palettes (e.g. Tetrapack)



Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Trüllikon ZH / **Primary school** (years 7-9), Sils i. E. GR

Rainbow technique colourful brushstrokes

Whether you want to paint a pretty field of flowers, colourful birds of paradise or shimmering rainbow fish – you can create effective watercolour paintings with multi-coloured brushstrokes. The children choose three pastels from their NEOCOLOR box that go well together (e.g.: yellow – orange – red, green – turquoise – blue). The three colours are painted onto a smooth palette in stripes of at least 10 cm. Then the children can carefully run a damp watercolour brush along all three colour stripes at the same time – but not turning the brush at all! This means all three colours are taken up on the brush at the same time and transferred onto the white paper in one stroke.

This technique is not that simple and will probably require some practice. The important thing is to use the right quantity of water so that the brushstrokes work. The children can have a few attempts on some spare paper. If you paint more than three colours onto the palette or use wider colour stripes, the children can also use a damp sponge to apply the colour and then paint bold rainbows, waves or snakes onto the paper.



Apply colour stripes of Neocolor II onto a flat palette.
Take up the colour stripes carefully using a damp brush and transfer them to a sheet of white paper.

Materials

- NEOCOLOR II
(water-soluble wax pastels)
- Printing paper (120 g/m²)
- Photos of the children
(black and white copies, A4)
- Sheets of glass or acrylic
- Sponges
- Water sprays

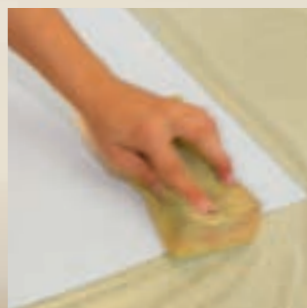


Monotype expressive self-portraits

One of the most direct printing methods is monotype (planographic printing). The children work with NEOCOLOR II directly on a clean, grease-free sheet of glass or acrylic. Blown-up copies of portrait photographs are used as the template, which are laid under the transparent sheets. First, the children copy the main facial features (eyes, nose, mouth, hair etc.) using a dark colour. They will still be relying heavily on the template at this stage. Then they colour in their portraits using Expressionist-style colouring and designs. The coloured areas become thicker layer by layer and the photograph gradually disappears.

Now it's time for the actual printing. Like most printing techniques, the results are better if you use absorbent paper. First, moisten the paper with a clean sponge on a separate table. It is important that the sheet of paper is thoroughly damp, but not dripping with water. The children should carry their piece of paper carefully back to their workstation and place it on the printing plate (best done in pairs). Then they press carefully on the paper with their hands (but no rubbing!).

The colourful designs and structures gradually come through on the damp paper. If necessary, you can moisten the paper again from behind with a water spray. This step is crucial to the success of the printing: if the paper is moistened unevenly, the picture will be blotchy. If the paper is too damp, the colours will run together and the structures will be lost. The children can check their print by carefully lifting up a corner. When they are happy with their print, they can remove the paper entirely from the sheet and leave the print to dry on a clean surface.



Paint several layers of Neocolor II directly onto an acrylic sheet. Then print the portrait onto a moist and absorbent sheet of paper. If necessary, make two copies.



Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **Secondary school** (years 10-13), Baggwil BE

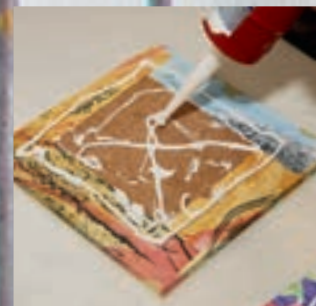
Murals

group work for several classes

Most lesson examples in this publication were created as part of creative project days at various schools in Switzerland. The children took part in workshops to learn about the different application options for NEOCOLOR I and NEOCOLOR II. At the end, the individual works of art were used to create several large wall mosaics.

It is useful if there are more pieces of work available for a mural than are actually needed. You can select which ones you want to use before assembling the mural, depending on colours and motifs. First, cut out the works of art and attach them to square pieces of chipboard with paper glue. The mosaic will work best if the picture plates are sorted by colour tone, not motif. This gives the mural inner cohesion despite the variety of styles and motifs. The MDF squares can be glued onto a clean, smooth background with assembly glue.

It is amazing how so many individual works of art can be put together to create a harmonious whole. And of course, parents and teachers can be invited to a private viewing. The children will be proud to present their work.



Cut out works of art by schoolchildren and attach them to square pieces of chipboard with paper glue. Sort the picture squares by colour and glue the finished mosaic onto a clean, smooth background with special-purpose glue.



Examples:

Primary school (years 7-9), Silvaplana GR / **Primary school** (years 7-9), Trüllikon ZH
Primary school (years 7-9), Sils i. E. GR



Materials

Children's work (A3)
MDF chipboard (approx. 20 x 20 cm)
Scissors, cutter
Paper glue
Assembly glue





Our contribution to creative teaching.



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