

Test Seven: Color Lino Blocks with Akua Intaglio

To compare the Hawthorn and Caligo results with Akua ink, Maria and I performed similar testing with Akua. We printed four lino blocks, two with ink from the container--phthalo blue and hansa yellow-- and two with mixed colors--a light green of opaque white, hansa yellow, and phthalo blue, and a watermelon red of cadmium red, hansa yellow, and opaque white. Though the carbon black needed modifying in order to ink the system, we did not modify these inks for hand-rolling, nor did they prove to need modification. All of the colors rolled up easily, and any problems we had were in the lino blocks and pressure on the press. We did have to ink fairly thickly to achieve rich results.

Clean up was extremely easy. Phthalo is a stubborn pigment and required some straight (not watered down) dish soap to remove from the roller, but otherwise, all of the ink was easily removed first with a dry towel, followed by soap and water. A soapy sponge proved particularly helpful in removing ink from small grooves on the lino blocks.