

Styrofoam Print Landscapes



Luigi Lucioni (American, 1900-1988) *Spreading Maple*, 1947, Etching. Gift of Deborah S. Haight in Memory of Her Parents, 1984. (1984.013.002)

Artist Luigi Lucioni is well known for creating etchings, a kind of print, inspired by his surroundings in nature. His outdoor landscapes capture details in the world around him such as trees, roads, buildings, mountains, and the sky. Etchings are a kind of art that involves using acid to creating scratches and marks on a metal plate, rolling it with ink, and using the carvings to create an artwork.

Styrofoam prints are a kind of printmaking that is similar to etching. By carving lines into styrofoam, you can recreate the lines, textures, and details of the world around you just like artist Luigi Lucioni.

For this Project, you will need:

- Styrofoam plates
- Pencil, chopstick, or skewer stick
- Paint roller, toilet paper roll
- Acrylic or Tempera paint
- Paint Palette (Flat)
- Landscape photo (optional)
- Paper

Like Luigi Lucioni's artwork, it can be more interesting to break your landscape down to multiple areas. Many artists call this the *Foreground*, *Middleground*, and *Background* of a landscape. The Horizon line, or the line between the earth and the sky, is also important in landscapes. The foreground is the focus point of the landscape, or the closest to the front. Luigi Lucioni uses a tree as the foreground of his artwork. Another part of a landscape is the middleground. The middle ground is the area between the foreground and the horizon line. The middle ground is far away, but still close enough to see details. A Background is behind the horizon of your landscape.

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To create a landscape print, follow these instructions:



Step 1: Cut the edges of your styrofoam down until it sits flat on the table. Use a photo of a landscape, or brainstorm an idea for your landscape print. I thought of a desert landscape for my print.

Step 2: Press gently with a skewer stick, chopstick, or pencil to carve lines in your styrofoam. Be sure not to press through the back of your styrofoam. Try dotting, making small lines, or lines in different directions to make patterns and details.



Step 3: Squeeze out your paint onto your palette. Use no more than a dime size amount of paint. If using a roller or toilet paper roll, roll out a thin layer of paint with your palette- the thinner the better!

Step 4: Roll or dab paint onto the surface of your styrofoam. The paint should not seep into the lines you have carved. If paint does get into your carved lines, dab it away and roll your styrofoam again with less paint on the roller.

Step 5: Press your paper onto your painted styrofoam. Rub the paper gently with your fingers. Peel your paper up and you will have your finished print.