

# DIY Stencils



Keith Haring (American, 1958-1990) *Untitled*, 1989, Silkscreen on Arches. Purchase: General Acquisition Fund, 1990. (1990.25.2)



Keith Haring (American, 1958-1990) *Growing*, 1988, Silkscreen, 100% rag two-ply Lenox Museum Board. Private Collection. (EL 1992.110.7.4.)

Screen prints are a kind of printmaking technique that artists use to get flat, even colors. Some screen prints, like *Growing* use bold colors but screen printing can be used in lots of different ways. This artist, Keith Haring, uses simple shapes and bright colors to create abstract screen prints. Keith Haring is known to tell stories and share messages about the world around him through his artworks.

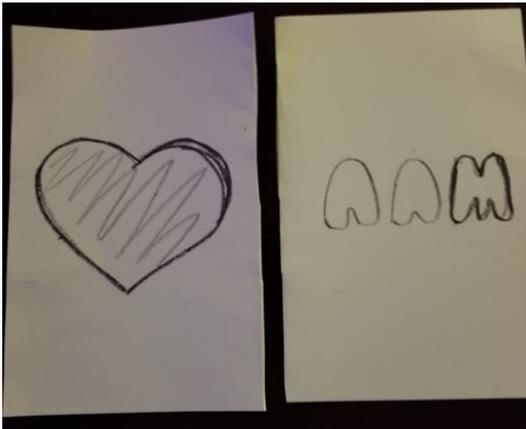
To create a screen for screen printing, artists create a drawing. They copy their artwork onto a screen, or a piece of special mesh. Artists use a special kind of material to cover the tiny holes in the screen except for their drawing. Ink or paint is then pushed through the screen with a squeegee onto paper to make a picture. Creating stencils is an easy, fun way to try screen printing techniques at home. Stencils have a lot in common with screen prints. Instead of covering everything but the drawing, stencils involve cutting out the drawing and drawing or painting through it.

## Materials

- Cardstock or thick paper
- Paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Paint or markers

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Create your own Stencil with these easy steps.



**Step 1:** Draw out a design for your stencil on cardstock. Stencils work best if your design is simple.

**Step 2:** Use scissors to cut out your stencil drawing. The parts you cut away will be the parts that paint or marker will go through. Fold or bend your stencil to cut out inside parts, or cut through the paper and tape up any cuts you don't want to keep.



**Step 3:** Place a piece of paper underneath your stencil. Use markers or paint through your stencil to make your artwork. Hold down the edges of your stencil for easier coloring.

**Step 4:** Repeat your stencil as many times as you would like. Try layering, flipping, and rotating stencils.