



John Scott, American, 1940 – 2007, LOUIS NO. 2, 2002-2004, Woodcut on paper, Museum Purchase with funds from the Acquisitions Endowment Fund

PRINTMAKING

ART AT HOME

Featured in the **American Men** section of the exhibition, **All American: from the Collection**, this large woodblock print was created in 2002-2004 by the American artist John Scott. It is a picture of the famous African-American jazz musician, **Louis Armstrong** (1901-1971), who is best known for his Dixieland jazz style of playing the trumpet. **Can you find the trumpet in this picture?** Louis got his start in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he quickly grew to fame all over the world for his gravelly singing voice and powerful trumpet riffs. As a child, Armstrong sang and danced on the streets of New Orleans, and when his audience threw him coins, he put them in his mouth to keep the other boys from taking them. Because of this habit, he became known as **“Satchmo” (satchel mouth)**! Check out some of his songs:

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

HELLO DOLLY

While Armstrong is the central figure in this print, notice the background, which, with wavy lines and contrasting black and white color field, reflects the energy that exuded from this incredibly talented musician’s performances.

Artists create many different types of prints. This type was created from a block of wood carved with the design you see and then covered with ink. John Scott, the artist, laid a sheet of paper over the ink and when he pulled it up, the design had transferred to the paper. He could do this many times, using different colors of ink if he chose, or he could even alter the carved design on the wood.

You can create a print at home, but instead of using a block of wood and a carving knife, you will use a sheet of foam (a styrofoam plate or a meat tray will work well) and a sharpened pencil. Instead of ink, you may use tempera or acrylic paint. Here goes!!

DIRECTIONS

If you are using a meat tray, take out container, or Styrofoam plate, cut off the edges so you are left with a flat surface.

Think about the design you want to draw. You may trace the outline of your Styrofoam onto a piece of paper and sketch your idea on the paper before you start on the Styrofoam.

Designs with larger shapes and wider lines will work best for this activity, so don't worry about putting in a lot of detail.

When you are ready, take the pencil and begin drawing your design onto the Styrofoam. Press down firmly with the pencil to make a deep groove in the surface.

Tip: Where the grooves are drawn the color of the paper will show through, so the more lines, the more paper color you will see. Try filling in some areas and leaving others blank for contrast in your design.

***Note:** If you use words in your design, be sure to write them backwards



DIRECTIONS

When the drawing is complete, put a squirt of the paint or ink you are using onto the rolling surface on a covered table. If you have a roller, roll it in the paint and apply it to your Styrofoam on the side with the drawing. If you are using paint and a brush, brush the surface of your Styrofoam until it is well covered.

Place the paper on a clean section of the covered table. Take the painted Styrofoam and put it image side down onto the paper.

Using a piece of paper towel, rub the back of the Styrofoam all over, making sure to get the edges and corners.

Pull your Styrofoam off your paper and see your amazing print! One of the best things about this activity is that you can make several prints from the same piece of foam, so make a few and send one to a friend or family member.

Have fun!

