



SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER PRINTMAKING OPEN STUDIO FAQ

WHAT IS PRINTMAKING OPEN STUDIO?

Uninstructed time for you to work on your own prints, practice your printmaking technique and explore. A volunteer studio monitor is present to answer questions and help if needed.

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Experienced printmakers and students who have had sufficient experience using the presses to do so safely. Many of our workshops include instruction and practice to qualify you to attend Printmaking Open Studio. Printmakers do not need to be a member of the Sonoma Community Center to attend Printmaking Open Studio.

WHO DECIDES IF I AM QUALIFIED TO COME?

The studio monitor determines whether you are ready to print independently. If you are new to the Printmaking Open Studio, the monitor will talk with you, then watch you work. The monitor may decide that you need to take a class as a refresher before attending open studio.

WHEN IS IT OFFERED?

Every Tuesday from 10am-4pm and select Sundays from 10am-4pm . Reserve a 3 hour slot (10-1 or 1-4) or a full 6 hour slot.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Half session cost is \$20, full session cost is \$38. This pricing is good through December 31, 2024.

DO MEMBERS OF THE SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER RECEIVE A DISCOUNT?

No, the \$20 half session and \$38 full session rates are just enough to cover the costs to keep the Printmaking Open Studio running.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Reservations are required. Create an account with SignUpGenius and click here to reserve and pay for your slot(s): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d44ada62fa5f58-printmaking>

HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN COME?

No more than 5 people.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL?

Unfortunately we cannot make refunds. If you signed up but cannot attend, you can open up your slot to someone else by sending an email to kelly@sonomacommunitycenter.org (The payment you made will be considered a donation to the print program.)

WHAT CAN I WORK ON?

The studio is set up for a variety of printmaking techniques: etching, monotype, relief printing, gel plate printing, and a limited amount of screen printing. If a technique is new to you, please take a class first.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR ME TO USE?

Three presses: large electric Griffin etching press, manual Griffin etching press, Dick Blick 999 etching press. Paper soaking sink, work surface, drying rack, soft grounds heating plate, platens, brayers, barens, etching tools, spray bottles, palettes, tear bars, ink spatulas, gel plates, silkscreens, squeegees, tabletop exposure unit, emulsion scoop coater, vertical etching



tank. Also tarlatan, newsprint, blotter paper, ferric chloride, aprons, nitrile gloves, baking soda, paper towels, rags, cleaning supplies.

HOW BIG CAN I PRINT?

22" x 30" is the maximum paper size that will fit on the large Griffin press.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

Ink and paper are the main things. If you prefer a certain size/type of gloves bring your own. As you gain experience you will most likely accumulate your own supply kit to bring with you when you print.

CAN I BUY PAPER THERE?

We recommend you bring your own paper, but if you run out we have a limited supply of Canson Edition paper for sale.

CAN I STORE MY STUFF THERE?

No, you have to take everything with you. Lay an old sheet in the trunk of your car on which to lay your wet prints. Each volunteer monitor receives a small amount of shelf space and a flat file drawer to store their supplies.

IS EVERYTHING NONTOXIC AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

Not yet but we are heading in that direction. Water-soluble inks are highly recommended, and less-toxic solvents, please.

CAN MY FRIEND COME AND JUST WATCH?

No, due to space constraints, visitors are not allowed in the open studio.

WHAT ARE YOUR COVID POLICIES?

Facemasks are currently not required inside the building. To see all of the Sonoma Community Center's health and safety guidelines [Click here for more details.](#)

CAN I STAY LONGER THAN THE 3 HOUR MORNING SLOT I SIGNED UP FOR?

If you'd like to keep working, please check the SignUpGenius to see if there is a slot available. If there is, go ahead and snag it. Otherwise you must clean up and depart in order to make room for the next person. The monitor will remind you that your allotted time is coming to an end.

HOW CAN I BE A RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPANT?

Keep in mind that the Print Studio is a community-use space. You are responsible for caring for tools and equipment and for cleaning up after yourself. Please plan your project to allow 20 minutes to clean your area and the shared equipment. Let the monitor know that you are leaving.

IS THERE A PRINT STUDIO WISH LIST?

Yes! Please contact Kelly (kelly@sonomacommunitycenter.org) if you, or someone you know, would like to donate any of the following:

- Print drying rack
- Newsprint
- Felts (blankets) for printing press
- Pin press
- Squeegee rack (wall-mounted)
- Tower fan
- Dish drying rack
- Dish tubs
- Popsicle sticks / Spatulas
- Small brayers