



**LAGUNA ART MUSEUM**

## ***Two Become One Collagraph Prints***

*Self-Help Graphics* exhibition



Sam Coronado, *The Struggle*

### **Introduction**

Self-Help Graphics is an East Los Angeles printmaking workshop and arts center that emerged from the Chicano movement of the 1960s. It was founded by Sister Karen Boccalero, who was inspired by the committed social and political commentary she saw in the silkscreen prints made by her fellow nun, the celebrated Sister Corita Kent. In 1982 Boccalero launched the Screenprint Atelier program, which provided Chicano and Latino artists of the Los Angeles region with studio facilities, materials, and the technical guidance of a master printer. The result was an extraordinary and exuberant flowering of the silkscreen print.

**Sam Coronado** was a painter turned printmaker. He started painting in oils and acrylics and experimented in various media, including printmaking techniques, which eventually led to serigraphy. His graphic art skills always kept his fine art skills alive and well. His art has been exhibited in the United States, Mexico, Europe and Africa.

In Austin, Texas, he was a co-founder of Mexic-Arte Museum, the state's official Mexican and Mexican-American art museum. He also founded the Serie Project, a non-profit organization with a mission to create and promote serigraph prints created by Latino artists and others in a workshop environment. Artists from Texas, and from abroad have participated in this project. He was inspired to create the Serie Project after working with Self-Help Graphics. In conjunction with Coronado Studio, a print shop that produces screen-prints exclusively, the Serie Project administers and produces fine art prints, which travel at exhibition venues around the world.

**To introduce this lesson**, have students look at *The Struggle*.

Ask them what they notice. Key things we want them to notice are: the complimentary colors used, the silhouette of the woman's face in the bite of the snake's fangs, and the rattle which transforms into hair.

Ask them what message the artist was trying to convey with this work through the imagery and the title. **We can all speculate about what the struggle is. (And all of our answers are correct, because the artist's intent is as important as the viewer's gaze.)**

We know that there are two different things that become one. Have students think of different symbols that can be merged into one.

Ideas:

Dog and cat

Moon and sun

Sea and land

Person and animal

Tree and sky

### **Objectives**

- Through this lesson, students will create collagraph prints inspired by *The Struggle*.
- They will identify two things that are in opposition and figure out a way to merge them into one singular image.
- Students will explore complimentary colors by printing with yellow ink on purple paper, orange on blue, or green on red.
- They will learn about the printmaking process by exploring Collagraph prints and the use of printmaking tools: plates, brayers & ink. They will learn to properly sign their prints in the same way that printmakers do.

### **Postmodern Principles addressed\*-**

- **Representin'**: describes the strategy of locating ones artistic voice within one's own personal history and culture of origin.
- **Layering**: images being literally piled on top of each other. Layered imagery evokes the complexity of the unconscious mind and the layered complexity of contemporary cultural life.

### **Studio Habits of Mind addressed\*-**

- **Develop Craft**: Learning to use tools, materials, artistic conventions; and learning to care for tools, materials, and space.
- **Express**: Learning to create works that convey an idea, a feeling, or a personal meaning.
- **Observe**: Learning to attend to visual contexts more closely than ordinary "looking" requires, and thereby to see things that otherwise might not be seen.
- **Reflect**: Learning to think and talk with others about an aspect of one's work or working process, and learning to judge one's own work and working process and the work of others.

## Materials

- Scissors
- Glue
- Cardstock (for creating plates)
- Ink
- Brayers
- Acrylic sheets for spreading ink
- Cardstock (for printing on to)
- White colored pencil for signing

## Steps

- **Sketch ideas**
  - Think of two things that they would like to merge and sketch.
- **Create Plate**
  - Transfer sketch onto cardstock and cut out.
  - Layer more card stock on top to add more details.
  - Cut out additional shaped to add texture.
- **Print Plate**
  - Add ink to acrylic sheet.
  - Roll ink over acrylic sheet.
  - Add ink to plate.
  - Press inked plate onto paper.
- **Sign Print**
  - Sign print with #, name, title & year underneath the print.
- Place print in area to dry.

## Reflection

- Share prints with classmates.
- Discuss what was challenging or unexpected about the process.
- What might they do differently next time?
- What was surprising?

\*[https://naea.digication.com/omg/Postmodern\\_Principles](https://naea.digication.com/omg/Postmodern_Principles)

\*<http://www.studiothinking.org/>