At Home Zero Waste Printmaking Inspired by Sam Gilliam

Sam Gilliam is one of the great innovators in post-World War II American painting. He emerged in Washington, DC, in the mid-1960s as part of the Washington Color School. This group consisted of artists who developed a form of abstract art from color field painting. Gilliam is recognized as the first artist to push the boundaries of painting by working with a draped and painted canvas that would hang without stretcher bars. Take inspiration from his collograph print entitled *Bardstown*, and create your own abstract print using materials you have at home.

Sam Gilliam  
*Bardstown*, 1976  
Color collograph on handmade paper, edition 20/25  
22 x 22 inches  
Racine Art Museum  
Gift of Karen Henrietta Keland  
Photography: Jon Bolton

**Supplies**

- Paint
- Markers
- Cardboard
- Found objects, recycling materials  
  (ex. Styrofoam, plastic, bolts, screws, bottle caps)
- Paper towel
- White paper or white fabric
- Hair dryer (to speed up drying time)
Instructions

1. Gather your materials and setup your printing station. Leave yourself extra room and cover your table if you are worried about making a mess!

2. Use scrap cardboard to create a rolling plate. Pour small amounts of paint onto the flat cardboard piece and spread it out.

3. Begin with the background of your abstract print. Choose an item, press it into a paint color of your choice and stamp the design onto the paper. Repeat this multiple times to create a background.

4. Choose another item and a different paint color. Use a hair dryer to dry the background image, if needed. Continue stamping and printing different shapes using different colors over the background design. This will create dimension within the print.

5. Continue switching objects and paint colors. Use the hair dryer in between colors to speed up drying time.

6. Once your print is completely dry, use markers to add accents and intricate details to the print.

Project Sample