

Block Printing –

The technique of block printing has been around for over 1,000 years. It was the earliest printing technique, and first appeared in China in the ninth century. Arriving in Europe around 1400, it was originally used for stamping designs onto fabrics, textiles, or playing cards. By the 16th century it had achieved the status of an important art form in the work of Albrecht Dürer and other Northern European artists, during the Renaissance period.

In the early 1900s, the German Expressionists sought to revive this rich heritage and adopted woodcut as a primary artistic vehicle. Their starkly simplified woodcuts capitalized on the medium's potential for bold, flat patterns and rough hewn effects.

<http://www.moma.org/explore/collection/ge/techniques/woodcut#>

Describe the technique . . .

The artist carves a design on a block of wood, then rolls a coating of ink over the carved surface with a brayer (show brayer), then presses it onto a piece of paper or fabric, just like you would a stamp. This way multiple copies of the art piece can be made. Instead of blocks of wood, many modern artists use blocks of linoleum and that technique is called “linocut.”

Images for woodcut, linocut . . .

Google “Woodcut technique images”

Google “Linocut images” (some good animal images here)