



NEURON GELATIN PRINTS



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Objective

Students will learn about the form and function of neurons through a simple printmaking process.

Introduction

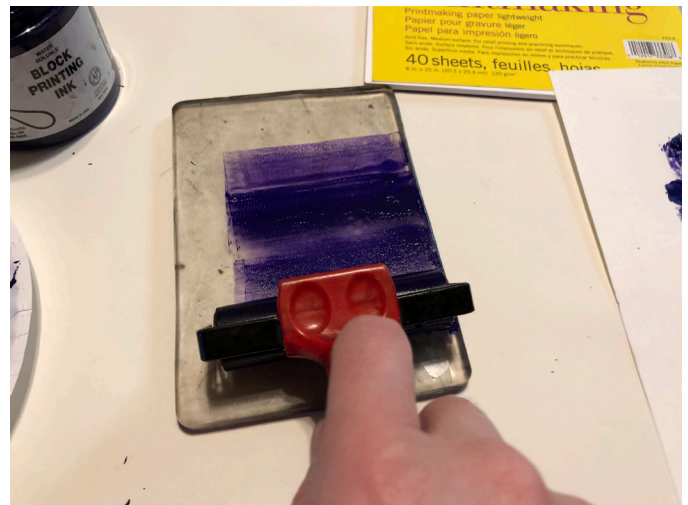
Prior to the project discuss what a neuron is and its basic functional parts followed by a discussion of why plants and neurons might have similar forms. Take a look at the many different forms of neurons.

Materials

- Gelatin slabs, or Gelli plates
- Block printing ink (water soluble is best)
- Printing paper (printmaking paper works best but drawing paper will do as well) Plant material (smaller plants work best)
- Ink roller (Brayer) Barren

Making a neuron gelatin print

1. Take your gelatin slab or Gelli plate and roll ink on to it (you want a thin even layer of ink, too much ink will not work as well).
2. Place plants on the plate in a neuron like pattern (thinner and smaller plants work better)



3. Place your paper face down on top of the plate, apply pressure with your barren or press with your hands if don't have one (apply a good deal of pressure particularly if your plant matter is on the larger side)



4. Lift the paper up, you'll notice that you have a negative print where the ink was blocked by the plants, now on to the second print.



5. Carefully remove the plants from the plate, you'll notice that impressions of them have been pressed in to the ink.



6. Once all the plants have been removed pull a second print from the plate.



7. For the next print all you need to do is re-ink the plate and start the process over.

