

Mary Corita Kent

November 20, 1918 – September 18, 1986

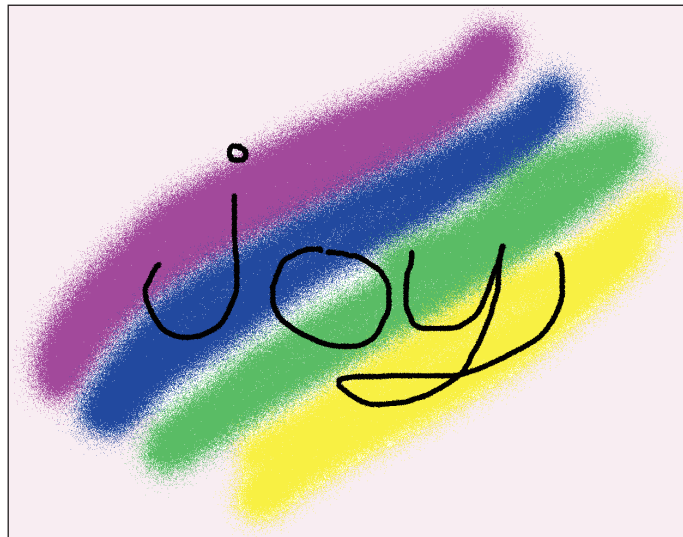
Printmaker

Frances Kent was born in 1918 and grew up in Los Angeles. She chose to become a nun when she was eighteen years old, joining the Order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Frances Kent then changed her name to Sister Mary Corita. For many years Sister Mary Corita was a teacher of art in Catholic schools, on Indian reservations, and at Immaculate Heart College in California. In her free time, she created her own inspired artwork – beautiful silkscreen poster prints with a message of love and peace. School vacations were Sister Mary Corita's time for her personal art-making. She would work round the clock printing new serigraph designs (serigraph means silk-screen) by the hundreds. Sister Mary Corita's early art combined words and images from her faith, but by the 1960s, she was including words from songs, advertisements and poetry with bold, colorful designs. Her message of peace was very important during the Vietnam War years, and helped inspire Americans to work for peace. In 1968, she moved to Boston to become a full-time artist by the name of Mary Corita Kent. She created many public artworks, such as the 1985 LOVE postage stamp, and a colorful rainbow design on a giant oil storage tank by Boston Harbor. Year after year she produced hundreds of beautiful and screen prints with her inspirational messages.



portrait sketch by Silver Tragesor, 9

JOY by Silver Tragesor, 9
Silver worked with Photoshop™ on her computer to express how she feels about color.



Stretch thin fabric on an embroidery hoop and paint a design with white glue or clear fingernail polish. Then press paint through the fabric onto paper to make a screenprint.

Serigraph Stencil

Materials

embroidery hoop (larger size is best)
thin fabric, like taffeta, organdy or silk (semi-transparent fabric like in a fancy scarf), about 1 yd.
Note: Thrift stores have scarves and fabric at affordable prices, or try the remnant section of the fabric store.
clear fingernail polish [or white glue and a small paintbrush]
squeegee made from a piece of cardboard and masking tape
pencil
scrap newspaper
cardboard pieces to prop hoop
tempera paints
white or colored construction paper

Process

1. Cut a piece of fabric to fit into the embroidery hoop, a few inches bigger than the hoop opening. Fit the fabric into the hoop and pull it very tight.
2. To make the squeegee, use masking tape to cover one edge of a 4" square of sturdy cardboard. The squeegee will be used to push paint through the fabric. (See illustration.) Set aside briefly.
3. With a pencil, sketch a simple design on the fabric on the inside of the hoop. Lay the hoop flat on top of scrap newspaper, propping it up with some cardboard pieces so the fabric doesn't quite touch the paper.
4. To make the stencil, paint fingernail polish or white glue on the pencil lines on the fabric. Paint some areas solid, and leave other parts of the fabric unpainted and open. Set the hoop aside to dry overnight. (White glue sometimes takes longer.)
5. Place the hoop on a sheet of white or colored construction paper, open side up. Put a spoonful of tempera paint into the hoop. Use the squeegee to smear paint over the design, pushing paint gently and firmly through the fabric. Take care not to wiggle the hoop.
6. Carefully lift the hoop to see the design. Then set the paper aside to dry.
7. Use the hoop to make many different prints of the same design. Try different colors of paint. Mix the colors right on the hoop for rainbow effects. If the fabric gets too messy, wash it gently with soap and water and let it dry. Then, make more prints!

YOUNG CHILD Paint on Fabric

Paint directly on fabric stretched in a hoop or stretched and taped to a table. Let the fabric dry.