Mono-screenprinting
Using a blank screen to create one off and painterly screenprints.

Printing a Screen
1) Mix your ink: 50% acrylic - 50% medium
2) Preparing to print
   • Scotch parcel tape around the inside edge of your screen (to prevent unwanted ink being pushed through the mesh during printing).
   • Only Scotch parcel tape available from the workshop can be used on LPW screens – other tapes may damage the mesh.
3) Secure your screen to the printing bed
4) Check the ‘snap’ on the screen – ideally the mesh should lie about 3mm above the printing bed board. (So that the mesh will ‘snap’ cleanly back off the paper once it has been printed on.)
5) Make sure all the paper you wish to print on is at hand. Once you start printing you need to work fast (if a screen is left with ink in it for more than 10-20 seconds the ink will start to dry and block the mesh so that the next ‘pull’ will not print properly).
6) To ensure your image is printed in the same place on each piece of paper small bits of tape may be placed on to the printing bed to mark where the paper should go. When printing several different layers acetate can be used to align a subsequent layer before printing.

Mono-screenprinting methods
• Painterly 1: Lower your blank screen onto the bed and place paper under the exposed area of your screen. Place ink on the taped edge areas of the screen and pull across the mesh. Use different colours, moving the placement of the ink around the screens edges as you go and begin to layer colour on colour. Be gestural and expressive and use a variety of size squeegees to print smaller or larger surfaces.
• Stencil: Cut a stencil from newsprint and use the positive or negative space as a way to block ink from printing onto your paper from the blank screen.
• Drawing: Draw directly onto the blank screen using oil pastels and crayons. Once your drawing is finished pull pure printing medium through the screen. The pigments from the pastels and crayons will begin to tint the emulsion, so your first print will be your best. Try it a few times over and see how the image develops.
• Painterly 2: Paint directly onto the screen using gouache or watercolour inks. Once your painting is finished pull pure printing medium through the screen. The pigments from the pastels and crayons will begin to tint the emulsion, so your first print will be your best. Try it a few times over and see how the image develops. You will need to paint fairly quickly with this method so the paint doesn’t dry too quickly and block the mesh. You should have around 5-10 minutes to paint an image.
Printing

1) Place your first piece of paper on the printing bed, lower the screen and pour your ink onto the screen.

2) Spread out the ink to fit the squeegee. Now ‘flood’ the screen by pushing the ink back across the printing area while the screen is raised (not in contact with the paper - this will give a stronger print and helps to prevent the ink from drying in the mesh).

3) Then pull the squeegee, through the ink and across the printing area of the screen, pressing down hard.

4) Lift the screen – your paper should be printed. Now ‘flood’ your screen again.

5) Repeat this process until you have printed the number you require.

Wash all the ink off the screen as soon as you have finished printing. (Allowing it to dry in the screen can block and stain the mesh so that stain remover is required.)