Week 3 Printmaking Assignments

**Aquatint sample plate**
Due in printmaking sessions, week 4

**Learning Objective:** to learn the fundamental steps in creating a range of values using aquatint. *The sample must be completed and proficiency must be demonstrated prior to beginning the print assignment below.*

**Assignment:**
1. Develop a horizontal plate with 4 distinct values (suggested etching times: 2, 5, 8, 12 minutes)
2. Proof the plate until you are certain you have an accurate impression of the plate’s values (expect to print 4 – 6 proofs)
3. Submit a well crafted, accurately printed, final impression of your sample plate

**Aquatint print**
Due in printmaking sessions, week 5

**Learning Objectives:** To design and successfully create an edition of prints employing a minimum of three (3) distinct values (including white if desired) with aquatint.

[Students with existing proficiency in aquatint may elect to complete a print employing soft ground textures, or a mix of soft ground and aquatint, or develop an impression employing six distinct values]

**Assignment:**
1. Develop a plate employing values. The imagery is up to you.
2. Proof the plate until you arrive at a final, version of the imagery, and you are certain you are accurately printing the information on the plate (expect to 6 – 12 proofs while developing the plate and establishing a consistent printing process)
3. Print an edition of 5 impressions using black ink – revisit lecture notes from fall defining the characteristics of an edition.

**Evaluation criteria:** good craftsmanship (no smudges, paper type and dimensions should be consistent), the image appears in the same place on each piece of paper (registration), the printing is consistent throughout the edition. Prints should be signed and numbered.

**cutius apprehendus** (lat.)
Consider that the object is a toy or amusement; that images may be concealed/revealed randomly, or suggested by design employed by the artist. The print may be viewed as a 2D image in one format and transform (quick-change) into a 3D object in another iteration. Consider the imagery and appearance of the image/object in both forms.

**Assignment:**
1. Develop a drawing to determine images, image placement and folds. Due Week 4 during printmaking sessions
2. Create an etched plate (12 x 12 – this could also be used for your full-moon praxinoscope – remember it will be cut though) Use of aquatint or soft ground is optional.
3. Edition or multiples of 5 impressions. Submit for review 4 flat images; one folded (you may vary ink colors in printing, you may also hand-color imagery; water color, gouache, and colored pencils, colored markers work well) Due Thurs. week 5, 11 a.m.

**Learning Objectives:** Design, revise and troubleshoot an articulating and interactive object employing images.

**Evaluation criteria:** craftsmanship, concept, employment of images in the context of a toy that transforms from 2D to 3D. Consider the conventional uses of cootie catchers; invent new uses and/or approaches to the appearance of this toy.
Printmaking Sessions

**Week 3** Go over assignments (15 minutes)
- Define/describe editions (10 minutes)
- Demonstrate registration systems for editions (10 minutes)
- Demonstrate edition drying stacks (5 minutes)
- Demonstrate soft ground (for everyone) test strips are recommended. (15 minutes)

[break]
- Demonstrate aquatint to students who are new to it (one group) (30 minutes)
  - Prep plate per usual
  - Degrease plate for acrylic aquatint
  - Using the aquatint booth (1) ventilation, (2) compressor, (3) airbrush (4) stage biting, deoxidizing solution, stop-out and ammonia stripper.
  - Printing an aquatint

Open studio time

**Week 4** Review/debrief aquatint samples (overview / 15 minutes)
- Review mock-ups of *cutius apprehendus* (small group reviews 45 minutes)

[break]
- Colored ink use (demonstration)
  - (1) draw-downs to test ink opacity
  - (2) various bodies, tack, and opacity of colored inks)
  - (3) mixing inks (tinting and shading),
  - (4) transparent base,
  - (5) demonstrate an example of ‘over-printing’ with respect to praxinoscope assignment.
  - (6) a’la poupee printing.

**Week 5** studio time: good time to print half-moon praxinoscopes.