

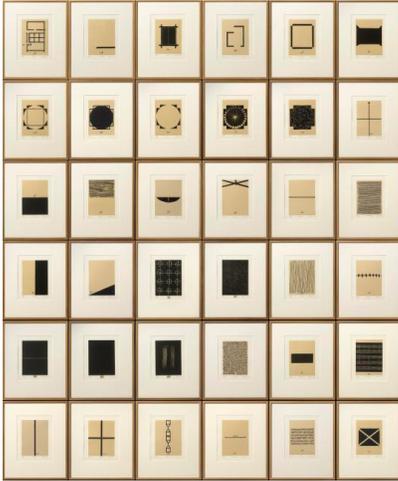
Exploring the Textures of Home Through Rubbings

This activity will guide an exploration into everyday surfaces around home through the creation of rubbings using charcoal, graphite, or crayons. This activity is inspired by the series *Home is a Foreign Place* by artist Zarina Hashmi.

Time: 15–30 minutes

Difficulty level: Easy

Messy level: Low to moderate



To view a hi-res images of each print in this series, visit the [MFAH Collection online database](#).

Investigate the Work of Art!

1. Artist Zarina Hashmi creates work around the idea of home. When you look at her artwork, can you identify the one that looks like the floorplan of a house. What do the others look like?
2. Hashmi was raised in India, which was then governed by Britain, but she fled to Pakistan when her family was faced with violence during the Partition of India into two separate states. She would later live and work in many different places around the world like New York City and London. Knowing this information about the artist, what do you think she means by the title *Home is a Foreign Place*?
3. A woodcut is a printing process in which tools are used to carve a design into the surface of a wooden block. The raised areas that remain are inked and printed, while the areas that are cut away will remain blank in the final print. There are 36 woodcut prints in this series. Looking at the prints, what would you say are the artist's attitudes toward the idea of home?

Let's Make Some Art!

Gather These Art Materials

- 2 pieces of computer paper
- Stick of charcoal or graphite pencil or crayon
- Scissors

Optional: a pencil for writing

Artist Instructions

1. Find a clear spot at home with a hard surface to work on.
2. Fold the computer paper in half and cut down the line
3. Look for two surfaces in your home that are textured. These surfaces need to be fairly firm so the texture will show up on the rubbing. Some examples would be a straw hat or a textured wall in your favorite room.

Note: these rubbings are extra special if you pick sentimental items or areas.

4. Now go outside and create two other rubbings.
5. Artist Zarina Hashmi also loves poetry, so for an extra step, write a thoughtful note on the bottom describing each rubbing.

Above: Zarina Hashmi, *Home is a Foreign Place*, 1999, woodcuts on Kozo paper, mounted on wove paper, edition 23/25, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase funded by Anne and Albert Chao in honor of Nidhika and Pershant Mehta, and Mr. and Mrs. Durga D. Agrawal and Nancy C. Allen, 2012.466.1–36. © Zarina, courtesy of the artist and Luhring Augustine, New York

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