

December 2010

INSTRUCTIONS TO CITY OF THE WORLD PARTICIPANTS

Welcome all to the City of the World puzzle project!

Your assignment summarized is to:

1. **Design** your block according to the theme: “City of the World” as outlined on the web page:
www.1000woodcuts.com/projects/cityoftheworld/index.html
2. **Carve** your block as outlined below
3. **Return** your block to me by the **deadline December 31, 2011**
Maria Arango
2544 Casey Drive
Las Vegas NV 89120-1819
USA
4. **Contribute** to the project \$25.00 to cover costs. See the financial page for itemization of costs for the entire project and the index page above for contributing online.
5. Everyone will receive back one set of huge prints, usually in three sheets of paper.

BLOCKS

Your block is cherry plywood, the best quality I could find, and has been sanded and polished to a 400 grit finish. They carve like butter, in my humble opinion. They are stained with walnut ink and you will easily see your design as you start carving.

On the back of each block you will find an arrow indicating the sky. The overall design is a “city” and your block will be placed with the arrow up. Blocks are also labeled on the back with a number/letter combination; this is for me to place them properly as they arrive.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do NOT proof the block by inking it with either water-based or oil-based ink. Last project I received blocks so warped that they had to be inked separately for each of the 280 prints. Las Vegas is located in the desert; humidity averages 4-6%. Any dampness remaining in the block due to inking or cleaning will cause the block to warp when it gets here.

If you need to proof your block you may use the following techniques ONLY:

Rubbing: just lay a thin sheet of paper over the block, tracing/tissue paper work well, and then with a graphite or charcoal crayon “rub” the image gently until it appears on the paper.

Foil: lay a sheet of foil over the block and mold carefully to the block by hand or press; once the foil is completely covering the block, ink the foil with oil-based or water-based ink, then pull a print on paper as usual.

Computer faux proof: take a digital photo of your block in good light, upload your photo to your computer, flip the design using any photo-imaging program, print out on standard printer.

Lastly, the blocks are permanently glued to a backing in order to print them. Once I receive the blocks it is not possible to return them to you.

INK AND PAPER

Your block will be placed in its corresponding slot. When the puzzle is complete, I will print the entire design on light buff or white paper with black ink. Everyone is invited for the printing party, date and time to be announced.

DO:

- Remember the theme: “City of the World”
- LIGHTLY oil the block if you want to make cutting easier (linseed or mineral oil)
- Practice cuts on the back of the block if you have never cut cherry plywood before
- Trace the block shape onto sketch paper and practice your design(s) if you feel stumped
- **E-mail me anytime with questions: 1000woodcuts@gmail.com**

DON'T!

- Don't change the shape or height of the block, i.e. no sanding, no cutting off the ends, no chewing by small pets, no wetting, no leaving the block in the rain
- Don't proof the block!!!
- Don't be a weenie and drop out

ABSOLUTE “MUST”:

- Get blocks back to me by December 31, 2011
- Please contribute to share costs with everyone else
- Sign the back of your block with a permanent marker or carve your name on the back if you feel extraordinarily industrious
- PLEASE e-mail me when you receive the block: 1000woodcuts@gmail.com
- Let me know if you need to drop out and for the love of printmakers everywhere, mail the block back to me if you do have to drop out

Project headquarters

WWW.1000WOODCUTS.COM/PROJECTS/CITYOFTHEWORLD/INDEX.HTML