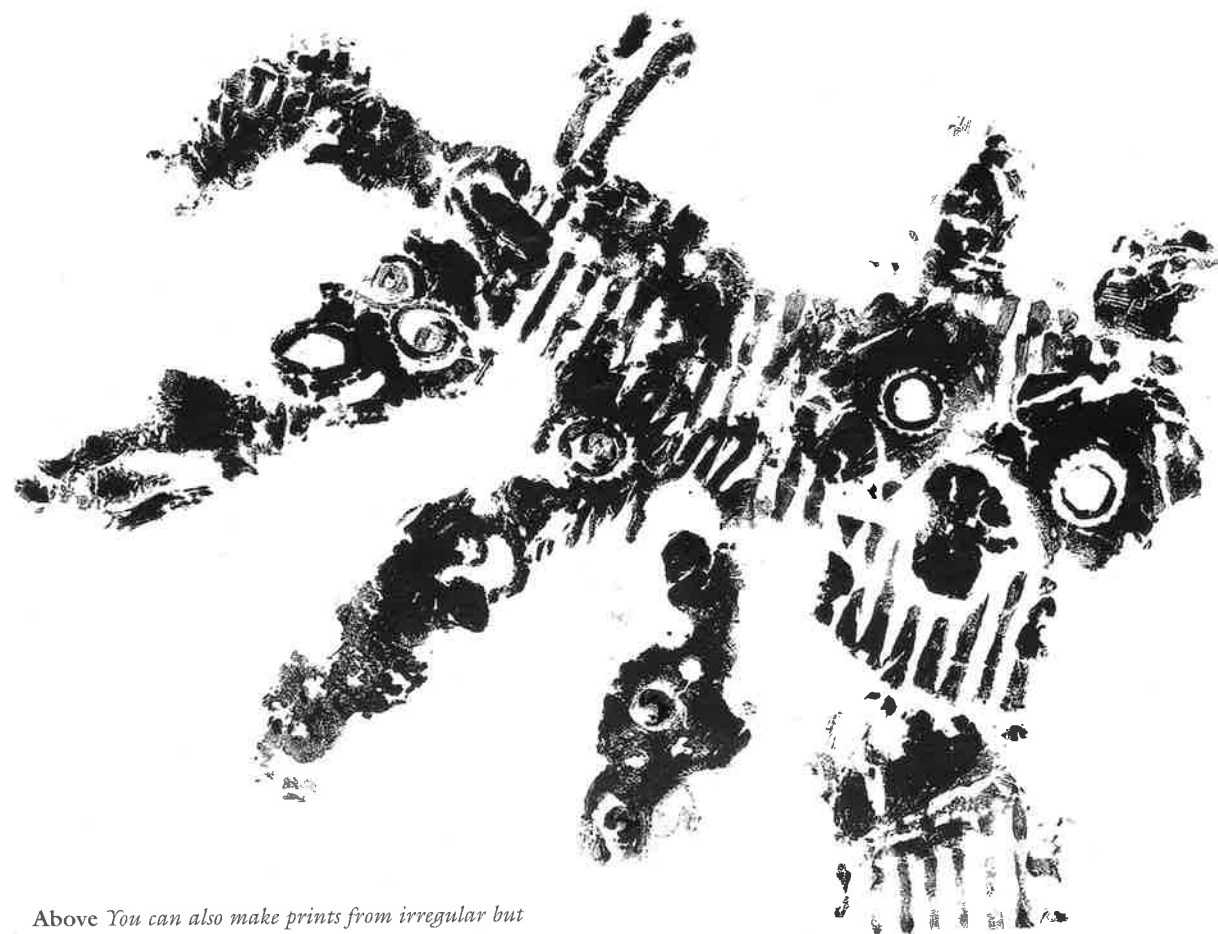
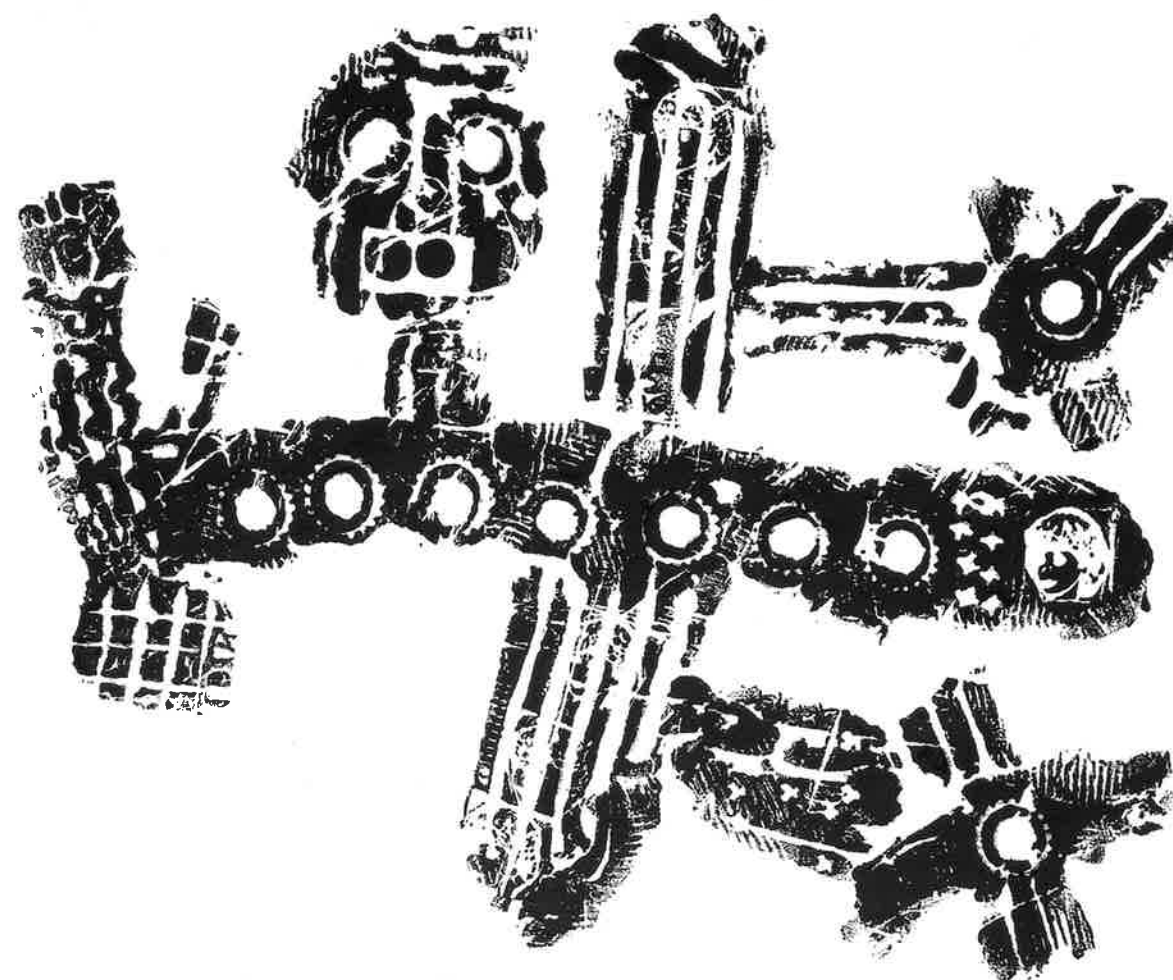


Lay a sheet of smooth, thin paper (a Japanese paper such as *Kozu-shi*, plain newsprint or light-weight photocopier paper are ideal) over the inked surface of the block. Pat it down lightly so it sticks to the wet surface, then print by careful finger-pressure over the back of the paper. Be careful not to press too hard in case you distort the Plasticene's shape. If the paper is

thin enough, you will see a light impression of the image appearing through the back of it as you print. This can be helpful, enabling you to see which parts of the image you have not yet printed. Once printing is complete, carefully peel the paper from the block. If treated carefully, you can obtain a surprisingly large number of prints from one Plasticene block.



Above You can also make prints from irregular but reasonably flat Plasticene shapes. Stephen Mumberson printed variants of this 'dog' (263 x 345 mm) to which he intentionally applied excessive pressure during printing. He then re-inked and re-printed the increasingly distorted blocks as an evolving series.



## POLYMER CLAY

Polymer clay (better known by the brand names of *Fimo* and *Sculpey*) is a synthetic modelling clay which, since the 1970s, has been made and marketed for children's use. It is sold in small blocks and is widely available in art, craft and some toy shops. Rolled with a kitchen rolling pin to a depth of 3 mm, the contents of one packet can be cut up to provide a lot of small blocks or one

large one of about 406 x 610 mm (16 x 24 in) – but take care not to make a block too large to fit in your household oven. It can be moulded and modelled in a very similar fashion to Plasticene. Its significant difference is that it hardens at temperatures between 110 and 140°C (225 and 275°F) – achievable in a normal domestic oven. When heated as directed (at

Above 'Aeroplane', 235 x 300 mm, Plasticene print by Stephen Mumberson. Its textures were made by indenting it with plastic children's toys, stencils, ruler, pen-top, cloth, pencil-sharpener, yoghurt pot and screwdriver blade.