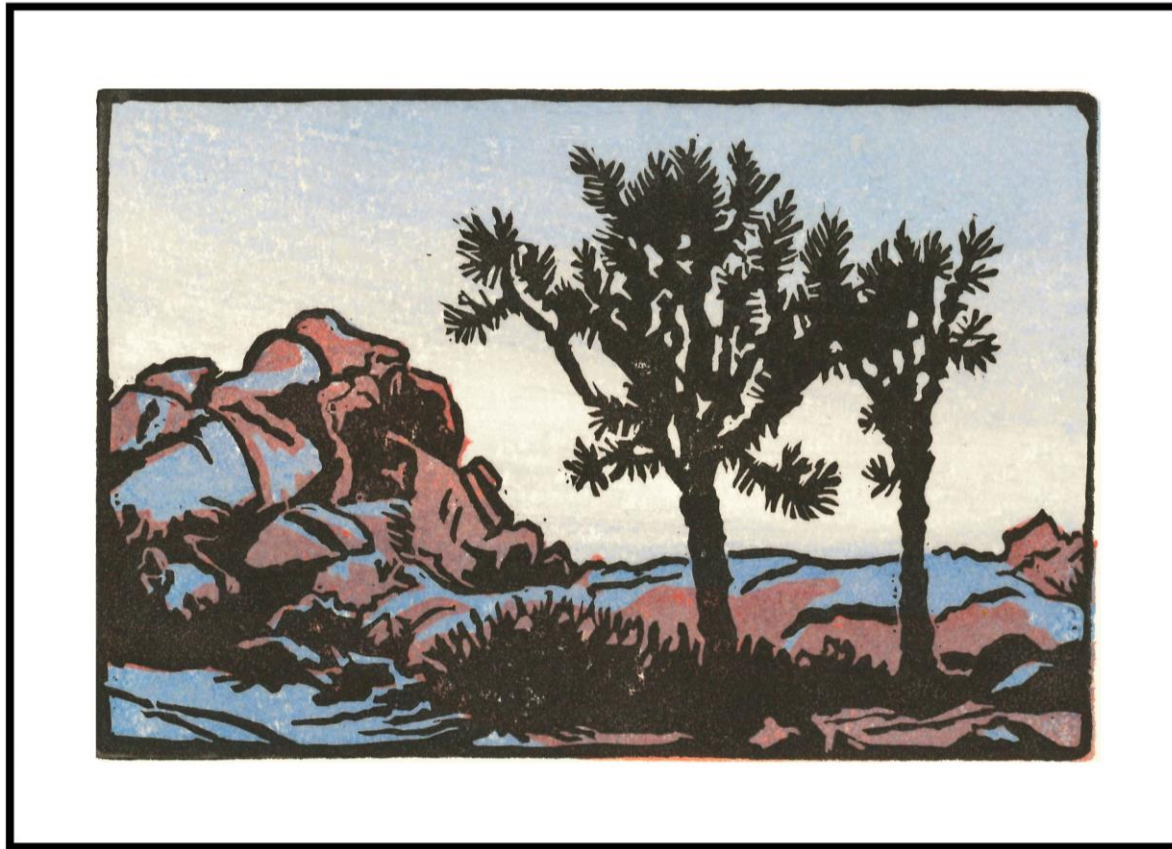


2016 PRINTMAKER SURVEY



Joshua Tree Dusk by Sophie Graine (Linocut Print 5" x 7")

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INTRODUCTION

About This Book: In spring 2016, 50 linocut printmakers responded to a survey about their process. The purpose of the survey was to create a resource where printmakers can find information about which papers work with which inks, which printing processes are most popular, and what the artists they admire say and do.

Thank you so much to all of the printmakers who took the time to answer this survey! Your generosity is so appreciated and will help newer printmakers learn from your experience.

This book was compiled by Sophie Graine of Two Hoots Creative (<http://twohootscreative.com/>). If this was useful to you, please do let me know! You can email me at twohootscreative@gmail.com.

Feel free to share this guide with anyone who you think might benefit. (Just not for commercial purposes, please – that’s a pretty reasonable thing to ask, right?)

Happy carving, happy printing!

~ Sophie Graine

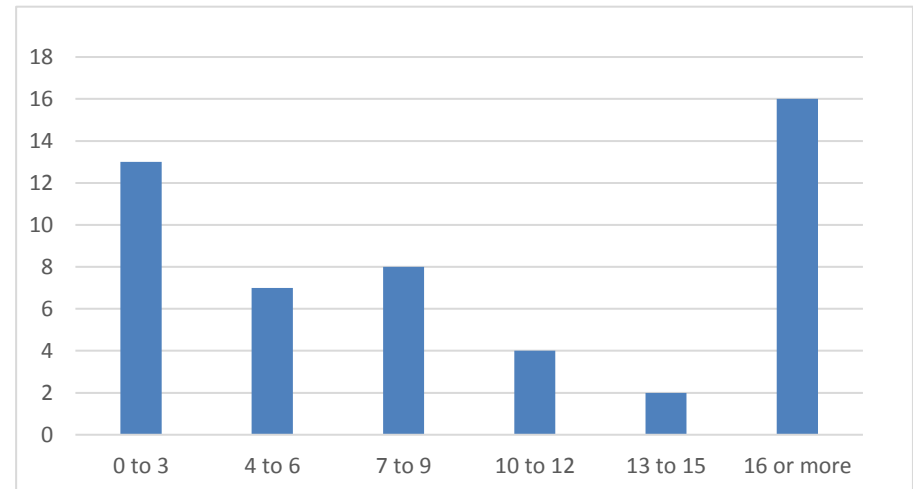
OVERALL SURVEY RESULTS

There were 50 responses to the survey. The answers are summarized here.

Years of Experience: Those who answered had a range of experience printmaking, with many just starting their printmaking journey and many others having well over a decade of experience.

Country of Residence:

- 21: United States
- 21: United Kingdom
- 4: Canada
- 2: Ireland
- 1: Sweden
- 1: Australia



Years of Experience Creating Relief Prints

Press versus Hand: Responses to this question were evenly split, with 25 people using a press, 20 printing by hand, and 5 using both.

Dry or Damp Paper: When I first started, I read that it can be helpful to dampen the paper before printing. I tried, but it was a bit of a disaster with the paper curling. I was curious about what others do. Turns out, 46 of the respondents print on dry paper, 3 on damp, and one writes that they sometimes dampen the paper if needed.

Paper Type: More details about paper can be found in the printmaker profiles. There was a lot of diversity in paper choice. Rives BFK was most popular, with 9 printmakers using this paper. Somerset and Hosho had 5 users each. Zerkall, Stonehenge, Masa, Fabriano and Arches each were used by 3 artists. Some comments about paper:

- Rives BFK
 - Rives BFK Heavyweight White 280 gsm - It's a fairly substantial paper, which I need because I usually print 7-10 colors (layers) and it accepts the ink well, and deckles well when I hand-deckle the edges after the print is complete.
 - Rives BFK 250gsm and 300gsm. It gives me consistently great results.
- Hosho
 - Affordable, good size to work with, and nice to print by hand
- Arches
 - Gives a nice emboss and provide a nice clean print for matting
- Fabriano
 - Cheap, the bright white version doesn't fade, and tough enough to hold up to multiple layers
- Masa
 - Affordable and one side is smooth and other side fuzzy
 - Masa from Intaglio Printmakers. I like any Mulberry based paper but this has a strong white, is light (83gsm) but very tough needed for many layers
 - It's strong, inexpensive (compared to rice papers), pure white, and very absorbent - great for printing multiple colors
- Zerkall
 - Zerkall White - a lovely, smooth, moulded paper
- Other
 - Yamato Chiri - old paper which becomes stronger as it ages. Very sensitive to the plate
 - 100lbs Winsor and Newton Cartridge paper. Smooth so takes the ink well and robust enough to stand being hand rubbed with a Japanese baren on the back
 - GF Smith Naturalis 250GSM Very smooth, acid free and good colour
 - Kitakata roll paper. I love everything about this paper. It's a thinner kitakata than the sheet stuff. I like both

Ink: More details about inks can be found in the printmaker profiles. Caligo was the most popular, with 10 users, Graphic Oil-based had 6 users, TN Lawrence and Daniel Smith were tied with 5 users each, and 4 people used Schminke. The remaining people surveyed used either a mix of these, or another brand. Some comments about inks:

- Caligo
 - Lightfast, stays open long enough and easy cleanup
 - Good colour range, overprints well and once printed dries quickly on the paper
 - Caligo Relief - easy to clean up, dries relatively quickly. Caligo Etching - much thicker consistency, much much better for fine detail, but need to add driers otherwise takes months to dry
- Daniel Smith
 - Great consistency, reduces nicely with gel reducer... just overall great ink. Unfortunately discontinued
- Graphic Oil-based
 - I prefer the oil-based because of the strong colors
 - It's smooth, rich in color and is fast drying
- Lawrence Oil-based
 - I enjoy the consistency and find it holds detail well, also I was able to print 8 layers in one day
 - Smooth rolling, good coverage and dries in a reasonable time
- Gamblin Relief
 - I like the consistency of these inks. They are very soft and easy to use
 - Strong pigments, don't yellow over time
- Graphic W/S
 - Ease of cleaning up afterwards
 - I like it because it rolls and covers well and has good transparency
- Akua Intaglio
 - Non-toxic. Dry wipe to clean up, then a little soap and water
- Schminke Water-based
 - Easy to clean up and quick drying

Ink Modifiers: 16 survey respondents used ink modifiers. Some comments about these:

- Cobalt Drier
 - On occasion I will use Cobalt Drier. I try not to use it since it's not considered very good for a person's health, but when time becomes an issue I will add some to help speed things up
 - I use it only very occasionally when I need to speed up drying
- Burnt Plate Oil
 - To make the ink easier to roll out
- Tack Reducer
 - It makes the ink less tacky, easier to mix, roll, and print
- Magnesium Carbonate, Cobalt Drier, Miracle Gel Reducer
 - Magnesium Carbonate and Miracle Gel Reducer were my go-to combination. Mag to increase the body, and MGR to allow it to release onto the paper

Linoleum – Battleship Grey: Most people used battleship grey linoleum, mounted or unmounted. Comments about it include:

- It holds detail but can get "stale" with age. Don't buy more than you can use in one year
- Easy to cut and gives a crisp line without crumbling
- It holds a tight carved line/edge, inks up smoothly
- It is completely uniform and is hard enough to stand up to using my Foredom drill with an engraving bit, and go through the press for multiple colors

Linoleum – Other: Some people used other mediums to carve into. They said:

- Traditional brown battleship Lino - it crumbles less than the artist grey kind
- Richeson Clear Carve - I like it because the cuts are very clean-edged and because it's transparent, it helps with the reduction process because I don't have to transfer the next cut/image to the plate
- Speedball Speedy Carve (unmounted) - it is readily available in my local art store in the sizes I prefer (smaller, 3 x 5" or 4 x 6")
- Unmounted softoleum - can be cut easily and is thick enough to 'stamp' when placement is important
- Vinyl floor tiles. It's a harder material to cut but because of this gives a crisper line. They are uniform in size which helps registration with multiple blocks

Brayer (Roller): Some comments about brayers:

- I like the Takach hand brayer because it has a good diameter
- I use Takach Hand Brayer because they are the best quality brayers... they are last forever- well-made and easy to clean
- 10 inch Heavy duty aluminum professional brayer (ground neoprene rubber roller)- It rolls out a perfectly uniform layer of ink
- Hawthorn, huge one. Large enough diameter to get right across the print in one go
- Japanese, rubber, medium. Re-handled for better balance for me. The balance is important, allows application of many light layers, or can be pushy and firmly used. Ability to "Float like a Butterfly". Free movement. Easy to clean

Carving Tool: Speedball and Pfeil were the most popular carving tools. 12 people used Speedball and 14 used Pfeil exclusively. 9 people used a mix of tools, 5 used Japanese tools and two used TN Lawrence. Some comments about carving tools:

- Pfeil
 - They are sharp, comfortable to use and easy to re-sharpen
 - Great to handle. Beautiful cutting. Very precise
 - Lovely well-made tools and easy to keep sharp
 - Remain sharp for long time
- Speedball
 - I use Speedball gouges, but I changed the red plastic handle for more round wooden ones. They fit better in my hand and more convenient to use
 - I use Speedball red handled carving tools. I like them because they are readily available for me to get and if a blade gets dull I can just easily replace it rather than attempting to sharpen them
 - Just good ol' Speedball red handles! I've tried a lot of other brands, but always come back to Speedball. The trick is having to find the replacement cutter nib that feels right
 - Inexpensive, so I can have several and not keep changing blades
 - Easy to get nibs, nice in the palm, storage in the butt, it's what I learned with
- TN Lawrence
 - They are the best I can buy and they fit my hand well
- Japanese
 - I used Futatsu Wari Moku Hanga To. Excellent blades and a good feel in the hand
 - I used Japanese carving tools from McClains. These keep their edges sharper longer. I also use a Foredom rotary drill with a flex shaft -- and use dremel engraving bits to achieve texture on the linoleum
- Other
 - I used cheap hardware shop no name brand tools. I also have a set of intaglio printmaker shop's mushroom handle tools
 - I used Alvin linoleum carving tool set. The blades are not the best quality, but are easily replaceable and you only need to buy one handle (they are removable)

When printing multiple layers, do you wait until each layer is dry before printing another layer? How long does this usually take, and how do you confirm each layer is dry? There were a wide variety of answers. They are arranged more or less sequentially from not waiting at all to waiting up to two weeks.

- Don't wait. Print colors sequentially while paper is taped to frame
- No. Akua can be layered before drying, especially on this washi, as it dries by absorption.
- No, I printed one colour, then cut, then printed the next colour, an edition of 10, all in one day and from light to dark colours
- Now I do, but back then [when I made this print] I didn't (not on purpose, I was just too impatient to wait usually)
- I wait until the last layer is dry to the touch. About 1-2 hours
- Wait until dry. Usually takes a couple of hours but often leave overnight. Touch test
- Yes. Initial layers usually dry well enough to print the next layer after about 20 minutes. Once you have 3 or 4 layers down they make take a couple of hours. Dry inks lose their shine so you but I usually test by touching an unobtrusive area or one I know is going to be covered by a later layer.
- Yes. Takes a few hours. Feel the back of the print for dampness and visual inspection.
- Yes, about 12 hours, check by feel / Yes, dry at least one day
- Usually wait until dry, at least 24 hours usually a couple of days until it's no longer tacky to the touch
- I wait for each layer to dry, about 24 hrs with the cobalt drier added I have a scrap print that I use when printing a run and use my finger to test if it's dry
- I don't often print in layers. If I do, I wait until each layer is dry. It depends on the humidity, but I'll often wait 24 hours. The print is dry when that certain sheen is gone--the color just looks more matte to me.
- I always wait until it's dry. Takes 24 hours or less. I 'strip' my prints with a sheet of newsprint immediately after taking an impression. This aid drying time and helps the transfer of the following colour due to the resulting 'flatter' surface.
- Not always, but usually wait a day, depends which ink I'm using
- I usually let them dry at least overnight before printing again.
- Wait until it is dry and no longer tacky, usually a day or two
- Yes, 1-2 days, by touch / Yes, 1-2 days / 2 days minimum

-
- Yes. Waited generally a day or two, unless adding cobalt drier, which allowed for two colors a day. Gently felt the ink film to determine if dry/no tack.
 - I wait until each layer is dry, which takes about 2 days (I use the tiniest drop of cobalt drier)
 - 3 days minimum / Yes, 3 days / I think I waited for 3 - 4 days.
 - I do wait for layers to dry. It can take a few days if there are many layers. I check with my finger to see if they are tacky.
 - Yes. I wait for the previous layer to be dry. I usually give about a week for it to dry, but usually tap a corner of the ink after 4 days to see how dry it is. If it's dry or what my touch considers dry then I prepare and print the next color.
 - I wait until each layer is dry, check by touch. Oil based can take up to two weeks to dry, depending on temperature, humidity, and how many layers have already been printed
 - The first layer usually is dry enough in about 3 days. Second layer takes longer - about 5 days. Every layer next layer takes longer to dry. I check dryness by touching printed areas
 - I usually wait 5-14 days between layers.
 - Yes. Drying time varies. My last print took almost 2 weeks due to three layers of ink in parts.
 - Not completely dry, usually. Length of time depends on temperature, humidity, pigment composition, and how many layers are already on the print. Have done as many as three layers in a day in the early stages. Slight tackiness okay to print
 - Yes, as I use oil-based inks, I find it absolutely necessary to work the next layer on dry ink. Time to dry varies. Sometimes I'll lightly brush the surface with cornflour (cornstarch) to absorb excess ink. I also blot each layer with newsprint
 - Wait to dry so the colors don't mix or transfer back to the plate. Dryness is confirmed by touch
 - I print when previous layer is dry - drying times vary from overnight to several days depending on how cold it is in the studio
 - I wait until dry and make sure I soak the same amount each time. I wait a couple of days between layers to make sure the ink is dry enough (may not be smudge proof but does not make your finger wet with ink)
 - Sometimes. If I do wait for it to dry, I let them dry overnight. But sometimes I print wet, and I like the random lift I get when I do on some designs
 - Depends. More often than not I do not wait as the ink cover is very slight, and many times I want a wet in wet to create strong secondary mixes. I do blot layers if the cover is heavy
 - Usually allow to dry over night before reprinting. (Humidity & Temp & Air movement dependent.) Fingertip touch ON ONE OF THE PROOFS :-]]]

Could you provide details on how you store prints? E.g. what do you layer between prints for storage? What are some storage no-nos?

- I don't layer anything because I find it's harder to keep them neatly stacked without odd prints poking out. Put them in a flat file. I recently got some clear photo bags and that seems like a nice way to group editions
- I have 3 large flat files and I have to admit I don't put anything in between, which when dealing with a soft paper can be a problem. Luckily, I haven't had many issues
- Flat file with glassine interleaving between prints. But make sure prints are completely dry, I've had glassine stick to prints that weren't dry enough before stacking. If I'm not completely confident about dryness I will sometimes stack newsprint between for a week or two and then glassine
- I have some large drawers that I lay my prints in. I make sure they are dry and layer them on top of each other
- I store my prints in flat files in a dry basement. I don't use interleavings because the ink does not soak all the way through the Rives BFK
- Between impressions, I hang them by clothespins. When finished and completely dry (COMPLETELY!) I put them in stacks of 10 and into poly envelopes
- I store mine flat on a table. Prefer to hang them out of harm's way
- Interleaved with black newsprint, store flat in a plan chest or on drying rack
- I layer them with brown paper
- Layered with acid free tissue in a plastic sleeve, flat in a drawer. Keep in a dry place
- Right now, in a plastic folder. No layers between prints
- Stack them together covered wrapped with glyceen paper. Hold separate editions in card presentation portfolios in plan chest
- Together in a folder. nothing between
- I usually just stack them in flat files on top of one another - I print on acid-free paper so it doesn't usually cause problems
- In a plan chest, keep dry and same temperature. can interleave with tissue
- I store my prints together in acid free bags (1 bag per print). The larger prints are kept in the same bag that the paper came in originally with some acid free/archival matboard on each end

-
- Ideally store between acid-free thin paper like interleaving. Glassine is okay, but not acid free, so not ideal for long-term storage. Newsprint for more than a few months is a big no-no
 - Use archival tissue and archival bags in flat file
 - I came up with a virtually free makeshift drying rack: I collected a pile of large cardboard sheets (24"x18"). On each sheet, I could dry from one to six prints, depending on their size. To create spacing between the layers, I cut another sheet of cardboard into small pieces - 1"x2" and glued together three of these to make a 3 layer thick block. When layering the 24"x18" cardboard sheets up, I placed the small blocks on the corners and in the middle of each sheet - 6 on each layer. As I printed, I layered these up until the whole edition was printed. The whole pile was light enough to transfer around, if necessary. Usually, I built the pile on my table next to the press, and then carefully transferred the pile to the wide upper shelf I attached onto a book shelf. There, it'd stay for a week, or as long as necessary till my next printing session.
 - When printing next color, I'd just transfer the sheets, layer, by layer, to a new pile, working from top to bottom. When not in use, the cardboard sheets didn't take much space, and the blocks went into a cardboard box
 - I store my prints in a flat file with sheets of glassine in between my prints
 - In a plan chest. Good admin - keep records of what you sell, send out, frame etc
 - Flat in a plan chest interleaved with tissue paper
 - I give a lot of my prints away, or print them as notecards then mail them, so storage is not really an issue for me. I do have an airtight tub I keep some work inside, and interleave with newsprint
 - Mount on Artcare Foamcore in poly sleeve, on edge
 - Just put in my plan chest - no in-between layers
 - Interleaved with acid-free tissue paper, or in cellophane sleeves
 - Usually I mount prints and store each vertically in the cellophane envelope the mounts come with
 - Acid free tissue always
 - I use a architects filing cabinet. I keep each edition between newsprint and then in a plastic sleeve
 - At the moment they are air drying on a rack, once dry I will layer between tissue and keep flat. I would not put in a combined space in case one is not entirely dry beneath the surface as that could result in mould damage to other prints
 - In drawers, once dry
 - Between tissue paper

-
- Don't need any protection between sheets as ink dries perfectly. Keep editions in a plastic folder. Try to store vertically
 - The prints I care about, I keep separated by interleaving in acid-free boxes. Most of my prints I toss in a drawer
 - Store flat with newspaper between when dry
 - I bag each print in a clear plastic sleeve with an archival backing board. No-nos would be using the wrong material for a backing board - it can yellow the prints. Prints are stored in drawers or displayed in print racks
 - My prints (usually) are absolutely dry when I take them down from hanging. So I generally bag the edition in a cellophane bag and lay flat in one of the plan chest drawers
 - Being a true professional I store them flat in a box under my bed with nothing in between each print. As long as they are not stored in a damp environment, the paper and inks I use are quite robust
 - No layers, don't put away until completely dry - week minimum
 - Newsprint layers
 - Flat, in boxes, plastic or card. Acid free tissue paper interleaved. Stacked only after extended drying period hanging. Too many stacked up. Any residual moisture - from any source.
 - I store prints flat in a plastic box, sometimes layered with acid free tissue



ARTIST PROFILE: LORI BOWER STEWART

Title: Milkweed (5" x 16")

Website: <http://lbstewart.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Graphic Oil-based Block Print

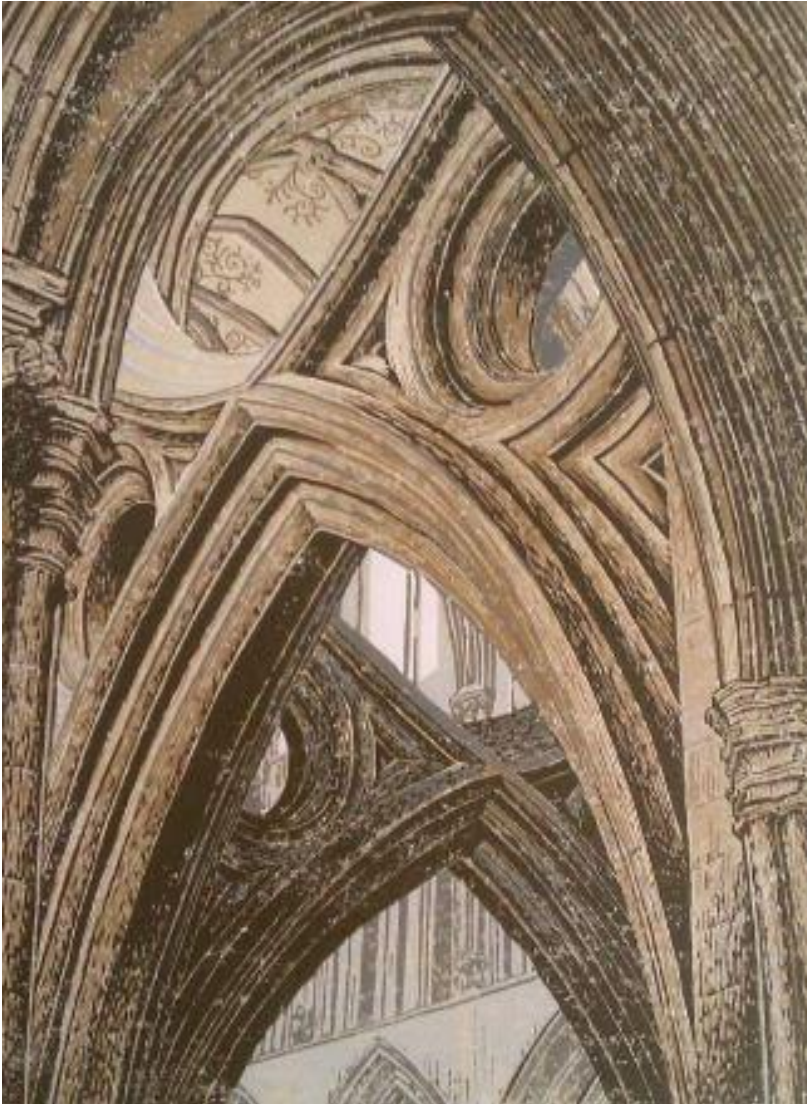
I like this ink because: I prefer the oil-based because of the strong colors

Paper: Rives BFK Tan 280 gsm

Other: [I use] Josei Moku Hanga To carving tools. Very nice tool and they stay sharp for quite a while

Image Copyright by Lori Biber-Stewart

ARTIST PROFILE: JONATHAN BLACKMORE



Title: Scissor Arch (30cm x 40cm)

Website: <http://www.ink-wells.co.uk/>

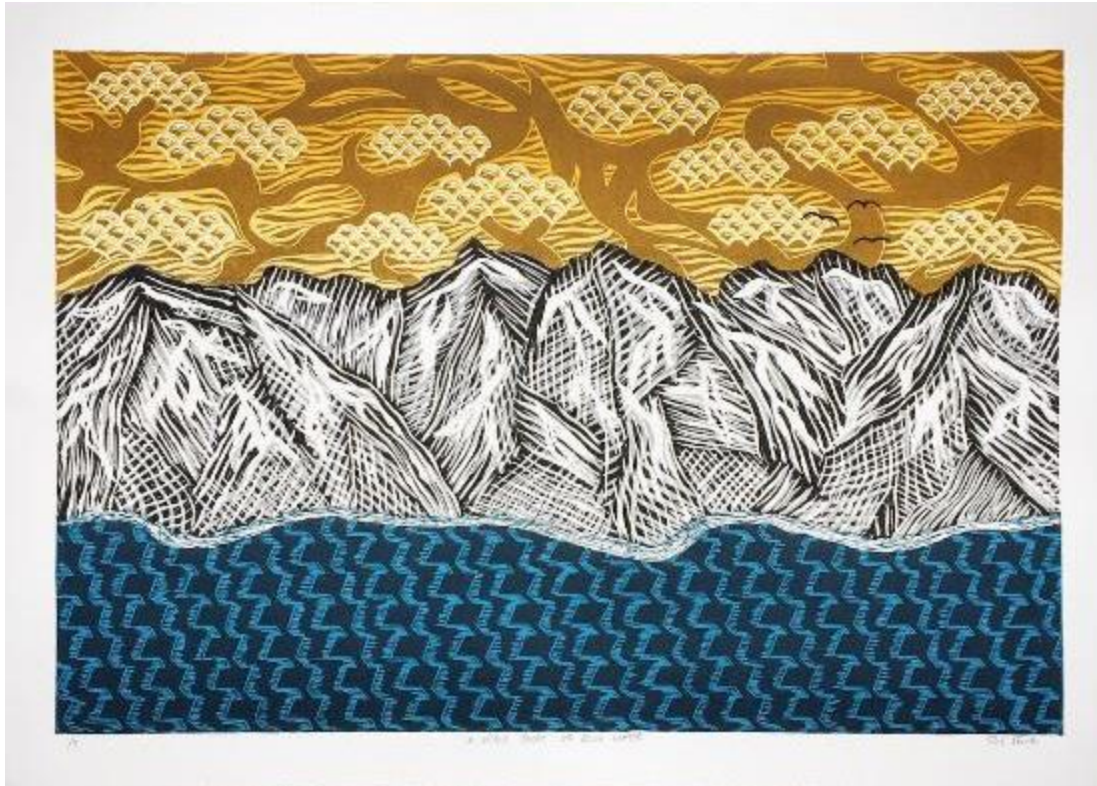
Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Jackson's Art Supplies

I like this ink because: Good water-based ink

Paper: Strathmore 280 gsm

ARTIST PROFILE: BOARDING ALL ROWS



Title: A Noble Sheet of Blue Water
(dimensions unknown)

Website: <http://www.boardingallrows.com/>

Printed: Mostly by etching press, small portion burnished by hand.

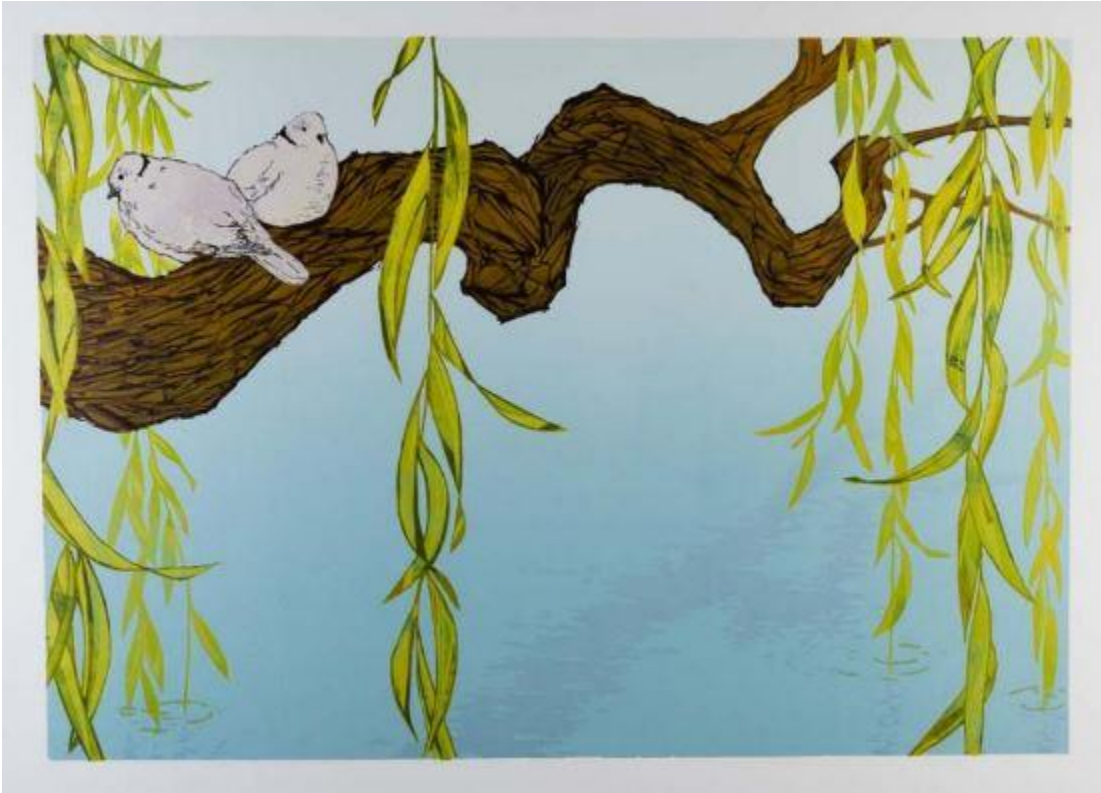
Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Lightfast, stays open long enough and easy cleanup.

Paper: White, Acid-Free Stonehenge 250 gsm

Other: I usually wait 5-14 days between layers [before printing the next layer]

ARTIST PROFILE: LAURA BOSWELL



Title: Doves in the Willow (50cm x 35cm)

Website: <http://www.lauraboswell.co.uk/>

Printed: With a press

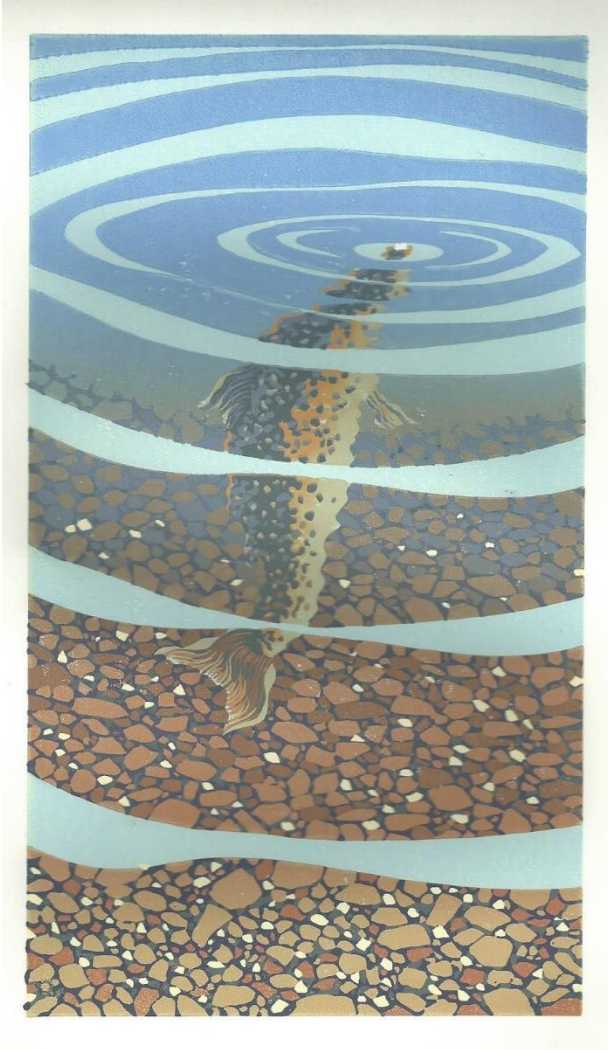
Ink: Intaglio printmaker oil based relief

I like this ink because: True to colour and doesn't skin

Paper: Fabriano Rosaspina 280g

Other: [For carving tools I use] my husband's grandfather's tools from 1930

ARTIST PROFILE: STUART BROCKLEHURST



Title: Rising Trout (24cm x 13.6cm)

Website: <https://stuartbrocklehurstprints.wordpress.com/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Good colour range, overprints well and once printed dries quickly on the paper

Paper: 100lb Winsor and Newton Cartridge paper. Smooth so takes the ink well and robust enough to stand being hand rubbed with a Japanese baren on the back

Other: Initial layers usually dry well enough to print the next layer after about 20 minutes. Once you have 3 or 4 layers down, they may take a couple of hours. Dry inks lose their shine but I usually test by touching an unobtrusive area or one I know is going to be covered by a later layer

ARTIST PROFILE: GAIL BRODHOLT



Title: Promise Me No Promises (33cm x 34cm)

Website: <http://www.gailbrodholt.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Lawrence oil based relief

I like this ink because: Habit

Paper: Somerset 300gsm soft white textured

Other: I print when the previous layer is dry - the drying times vary from overnight to several days depending on how cold it is in the studio

ARTIST PROFILE: ALEXANDRA BUCKLE



Title: Sunshine Fields – detail (40cm x 30cm)

Website: <http://www.alexandrabuckle.co.uk/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Schmincke

I like this ink because: It is the brand I am used to

Paper: Somerset Satin white 300gsm

Problem solved by changing your approach: bad wrists from too much burnishing! Bought a press

ARTIST PROFILE: ELIZABETH BUSEY



Title: Highway Caprice (22" x 16")

Website: <http://elizabethbusey.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Gamblin Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Strong pigments that don't yellow over time

Paper: Rives BFK 250gsm

Other: With multiple layers, you need to make sure that each layer of ink is the thinnest it can be while still giving you the color that you want. At some point the paper will be saturated and it will be difficult to get any further ink to stick

ARTIST PROFILE: VICTORIA COWAN



Title: My Ancestors
(dimensions unknown)

Website:
<http://www.victoriacowan.ca/>

Printed: Front panels by hand,
back with press

Ink: Akua Intaglio

I like this ink because: Non
toxic. Dry wipe to clean up,
then a little soap and water.

Paper: Yamato Chiri: reflects the message of the work as it is old paper which becomes stronger as it ages. Very sensitive to the plate.

Other: Akua can be layered before drying, especially on this washi, as it dries by absorption.

ARTIST PROFILE: JEANNE DEBONIS



1/15

Morning Inspiration 2

Jeanne DeBonis

Title: Morning Inspiration 2 (8" x 6")

Website: <http://www.jeanneius.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Speedball oil-based relief inks

I like this ink because: I don't necessarily prefer it, it's just what I had and it's good quality and not very expensive. I use Gamblin relief inks regularly too

Paper: Masa paper - it's strong, inexpensive (compared to rice papers), pure white, and very absorbent - which is great for printing multiple colors

Other: The only way to get accurate registration is to use registration pins or tabs. Ink thickness is still an ongoing experiment

ARTIST PROFILE: FAY DUNSTAN



Title and Dimensions Unknown (The material details may not be representative of this particular print)

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/fay.dunstan.printmaker>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Am intolerant of petroleum products for clean-up. This is detergent clean-up, then rinse off with cold water. I do use minimal white spirits to do a final clean of the plate before I start printing again (mostly needed for Japanese Vinyl)

Paper: Japanese Hosho - both Student(proofing) and Heavy (96gsm)

Other: [I use] multiple barens for different purposes. Typically this could be a sequence -- Japanese Bamboo leaf, then serving black plastic spoon, then teaspoon, or fingertip

ARTIST PROFILE: DANNY EVARTS



Title: First Chase: Autumn (9" x 12")

Website:

<http://gallery.dannyevarts.net/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

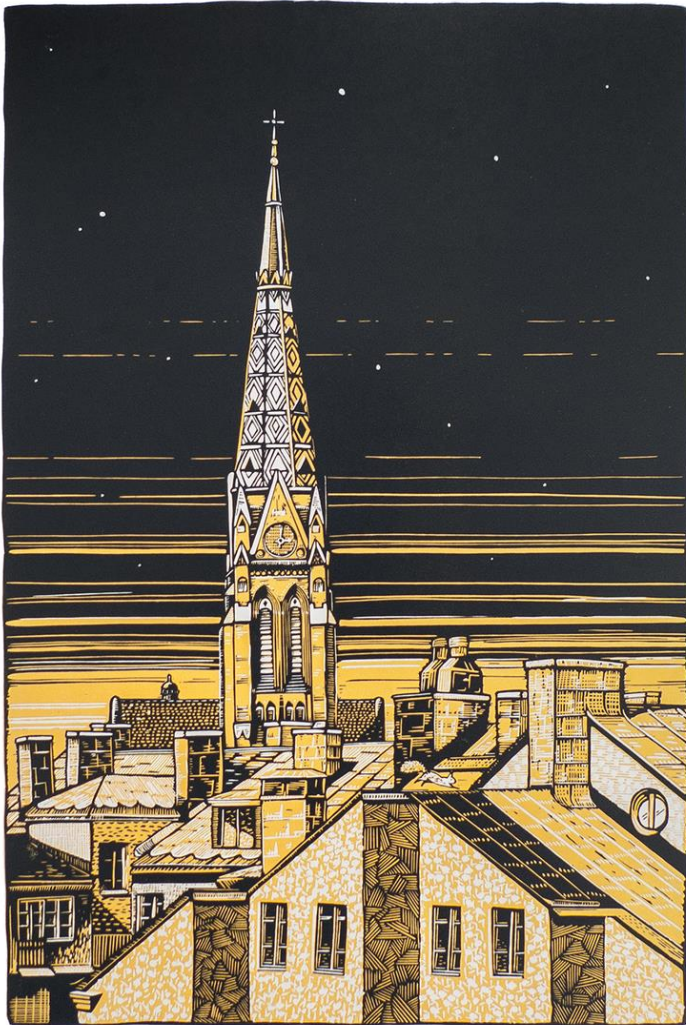
Ink: I think it was a mix of Daniel Smith water-based relief (no longer made) and Speedball water-based

I like this ink because: I use mostly oil-based now (Gamblin mostly, though love the no-longer made Daniel Smith relief black)

Paper: Rives BFK white

Other: When I only used water-based inks, I had problems with getting clear colours and crisp lines. Switching to oil-based has solved much of this

ARTIST PROFILE: TIAN GAN



Title: St. Johannes Kyrka (30cm x 45cm)

Website: <http://gantian.se/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because: It's the first oil-based I've tried; happy with the colors and how easy it is to clean

Paper: Hosho. [It is] affordable, good size to work with, and nice to print by hand

Other: I had problems with water-based ink before; it dried too fast and was getting frustrating. Switching to Caligo made it much better

ARTIST PROFILE: ERIC GASKELL



Title: Audlem Mill (29cm x 26cm)

Website: <http://www.canalprints.co.uk/>

Printed: With a press

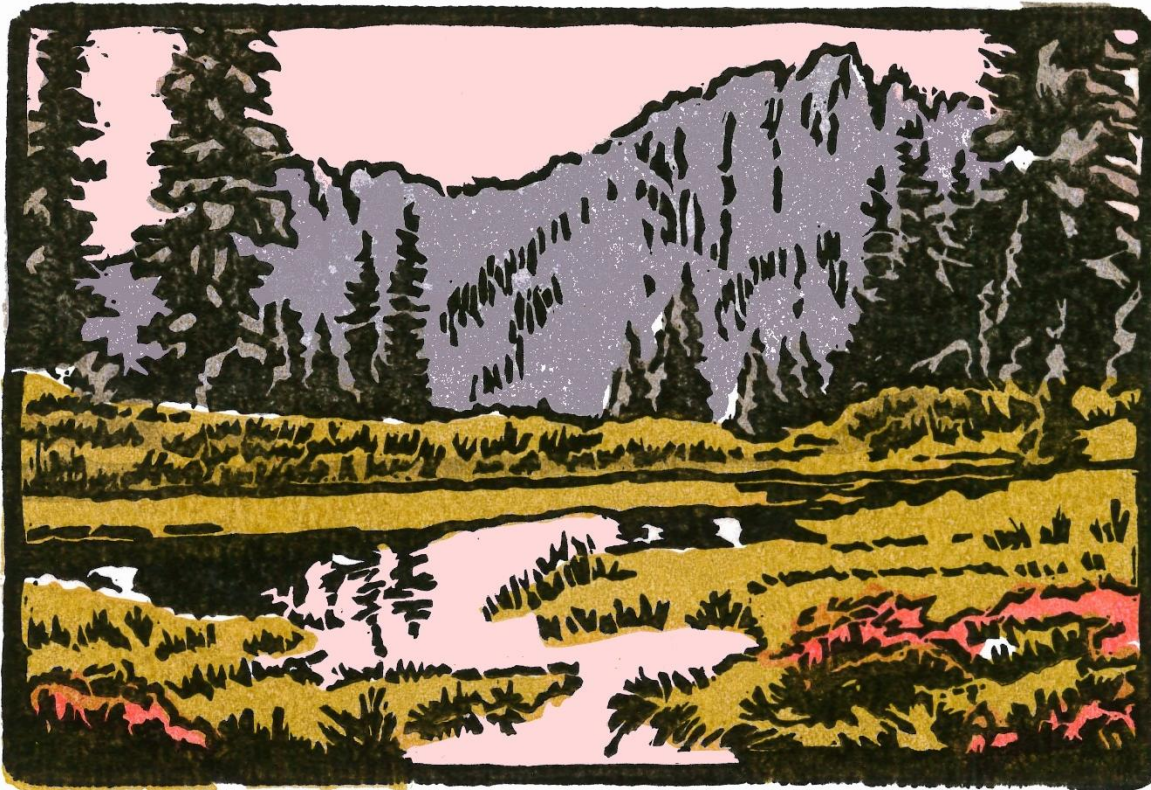
Ink: Graphic W/S (water soluble) Block Print

I like this ink because: I like it because it rolls and cover well and has good transparency. I also use TN Lawrence's version

Paper: Masa (from Intaglio Printmakers). I like any Mulberry based paper but this has a strong white, is light (83gsm) but very tough needed for many layers

Other: Eric moderates the Facebook group Linocut Friends, a fantastic resource for linocut printmakers

ARTIST PROFILE: SOPHIE GRAINE



Title: Castle Crag Mountain (4" x 6")

Website:

<http://twohootscreative.com/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Akua Intaglio

I like this ink because: It is so easy to clean up – much easier than Caligo Safe Wash. The first layers dry almost immediately so printing multiple layers in one day is sometimes possible. Also, it is non-toxic.

Paper: Strathmore 400 Series Printmaking Paper. It is a thick, stiff paper and it is soft and flannel-like to the touch.

Other: It took some experimenting to get used to the Akua ink. On thinner paper, multiple layers left an oily bleed-through on the back of some prints. Now with a compatible paper I love this ink.

ARTIST PROFILE: KELLIE HAMES



Title: Forsaken 1 – detail (16.5” x 13”)

Website: <http://kelliehames.com/>

Printed: With a press

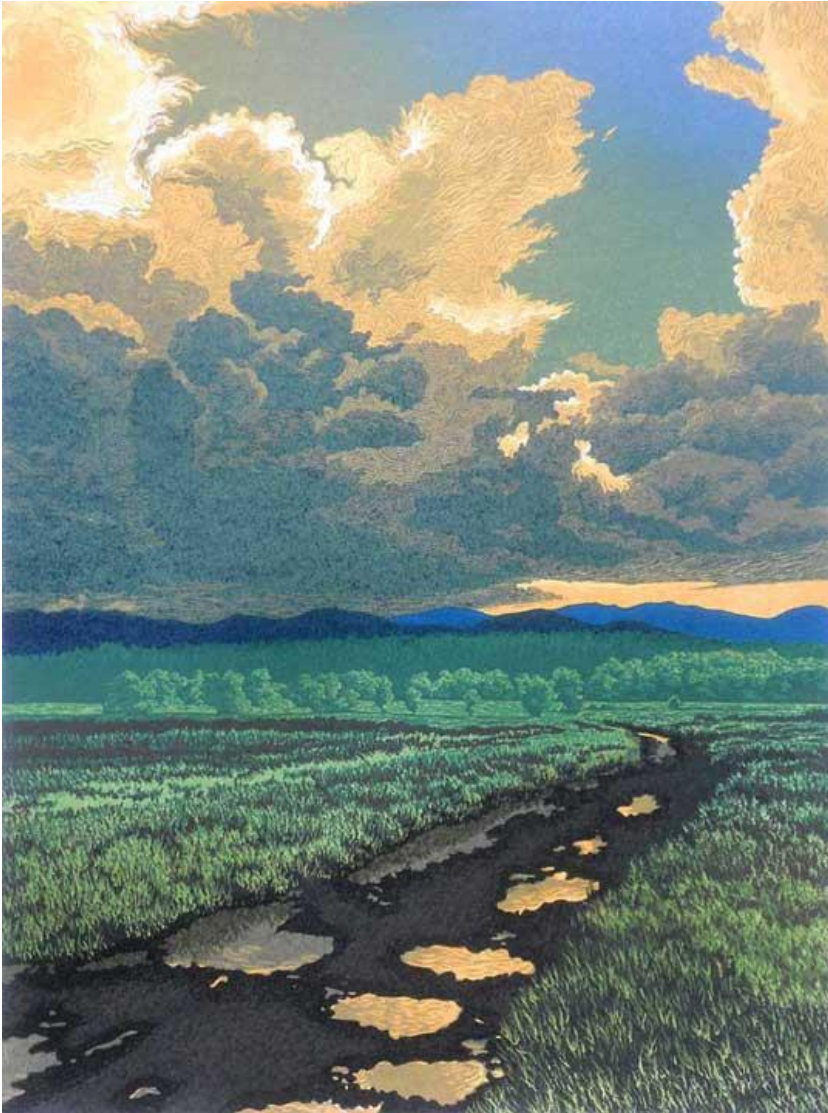
Ink: Hanco and Graphic Chemical Litho Inks, modified

I like this ink because: In my undergrad this was all the ink we had access to, but I still preferred it as it held its body more and sat atop the linoleum surface without bleeding into the cut sections

Paper: Fabriano Rosaspina, bright white. Cheap, the bright white version doesn't fade, and tough enough to hold up to multiple layers

Other: Magnesium Carbonate and Miracle Gel Reducer were my go-to combination [of modifiers]. Mag to increase the body, and MGR to allow it to release onto the paper

ARTIST PROFILE: WILLIAM HAYS



Title: After the Storm (12" x 9")

Website: <http://www.theartistsloft.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Renaissance Oil Base Block Ink

I like this ink because: Very rich colors. Oil based is better for my many layered reduction prints

Paper: Stonehenge 90 lb. printmaking paper

Other: [I use] Futatsu Wari Moku Hanga To carving tools. Excellent blades and a good feel in the hand

ARTIST PROFILE: OLIVIA KIERS



Title: Boston City Hall (4" x 6")

Website: <https://okayart.wordpress.com/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Graphic W/S (water soluble) Block Print

Paper: Ease of cleaning up afterwards. I print out of my very small apartment. There's no designated studio space, just my desk and a kitchen sink

Other: BFK Reeve lightweight, or mulberry. I like the soft look my print's negative spaces when using mulberry

ARTIST PROFILE: LENNY LANE



Title: August – A Year in Trees (6.5” x 4.25”)

Website: <https://www.linolenny.com/>

Printed: Press first then finished by hand

Ink: I use Gamblin, Daniel Smith, Speedball, TN Lawrence - all oils

I like this ink because: My preference is TN Lawrence for the high quality and wide range of colours. But I mostly use Gamblin and what's left of Daniel Smith in my collection due to availability in North America

Paper: I use Strathmore Bristol 300 Series (white) 100lb and Strathmore Bristol Vellum Acid-Free 100lb

Other: [When printing by hand I use a] Print Frog and metal spoon. They manage to aid transfer of ink to stubborn parts of a print when the press can't do it on its own. I 'strip' my prints with a sheet of newsprint immediately after taking an impression. This aids drying time and helps the transfer of the following colour due to the resulting 'flatter' surface

ARTIST PROFILE: DAVE LEFNER



Title: Starlite (18" x 18")

Website: <http://davelefner.com/>

Printed: With a press

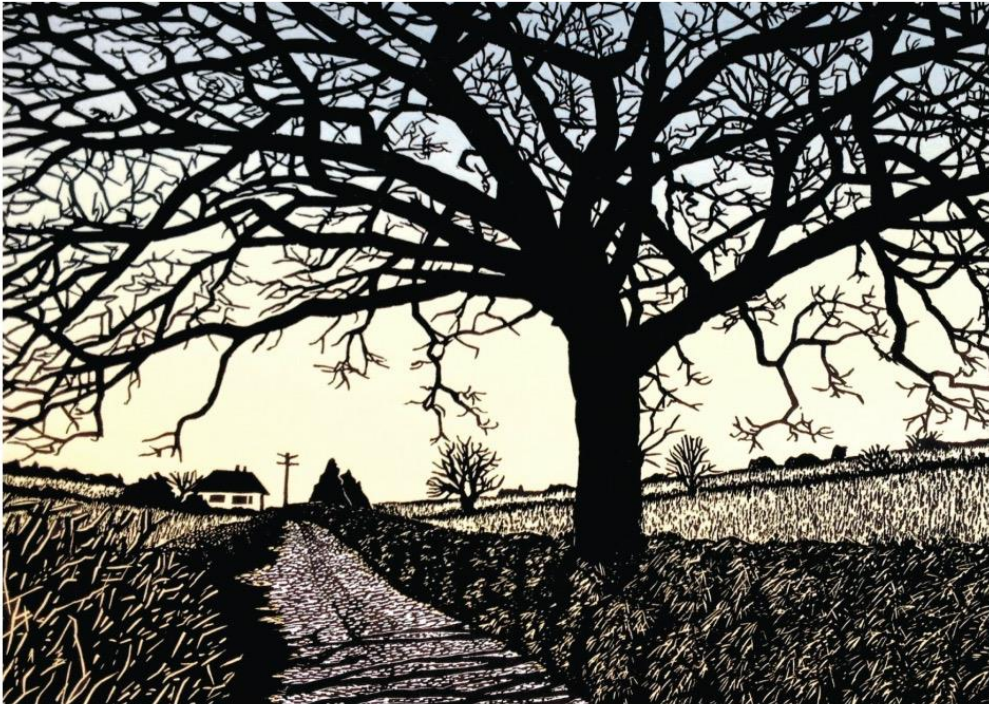
Ink: Daniel Smith Oil-based Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Great consistency, reduces nicely with gel reducer... just overall great ink. Unfortunately Daniel Smith has discontinued pretty much their entire printmaking line... Gamblin is what I'm going to start experimenting with next

Paper: Rives BFK Heavyweight White 280 gsm

I like this paper because: It's a fairly substantial paper, which I need because I usually print 7-10 colors (layers) and it accepts the ink well, and deckles well when I hand-deckle the edges after the print is complete

ARTIST PROFILE: RICHARD SHIMELL



Title: Fill the Sky (27cm x 23cm)

Website: <https://richardshimell.co.uk/>

Printed: With a press

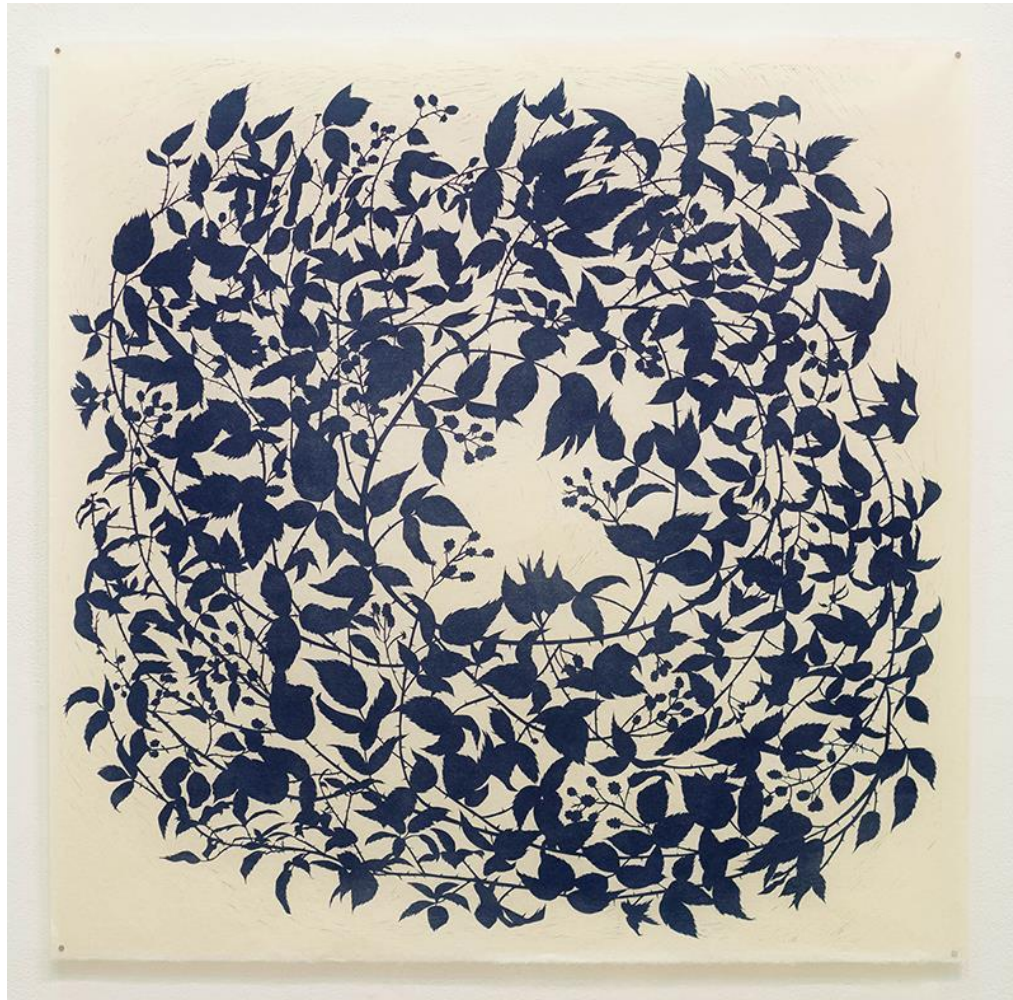
Ink: Caligo safe wash relief and Caligo SW etching

I like this ink because: Relief - easy to clean up, dries relatively quickly. Etching - much thicker consistency, much much better for fine detail, but need to add driers otherwise takes months to dry

Paper: Somerset satin white

Other: [I used] two plates of vinyl flooring printed one on top of the other, and a huge Hawthorn brayer for large tree. Large enough diameter to get right across the print in one go

ARTIST PROFILE: HANNAH SKOONBERG



Title: Blackberry Wreath (36" x 36")

Website: <http://skoonberg.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Daniel Smith.

I like this ink because: It has a buttery texture, but it has been discontinued.

Paper: Kitakata roll paper. I love everything about this paper.

Other: [I used] unmounted battleship grey. It holds detail but can get "stale" with age. Don't buy more than you can use in one year

ARTIST PROFILE: ANNE LEWIS



Title: Pistyll Cain (30cm x 30cm)

Website: <https://annlewis.co.uk/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Hawthorn Printmakers

I like this ink because: Good colour density, covers well, doesn't 'skin', good customer service from manufacturers

Paper: Simili Japon (165gsm I think). I like the smooth surface, it takes ink well

Other: Sometimes I'll lightly brush the surface with cornflour (cornstarch) to absorb excess ink. I also blot each layer with newsprint

ARTIST PROFILE: KELLI MACCONNELL



Title: Hazelnut Orchard (24" x 19")

Website: <http://kellimacconnell.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Graphic Oil-based Block Print

I like this ink because: It's smooth, rich in color and is fast drying

Paper: Arches Cover White 250 gsm

Other: I use Takach Hand Brayer because they are the best quality brayers... they last forever - well-made and easy to clean

ARTIST PROFILE: ROBIN MCKENZIE



Title: Window (A2, 16.5" x 23.4")

Website: <http://robinmackenzie.co.uk/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Lawrence relief

I like this ink because: Smooth rolling, good coverage and dries in a reasonable time

Paper: GF Smith Naturalis 250 gsm. Very smooth, acid free and good colour.

Other: [I use] Lawrence durathene rollers, best quality rubber and feels good to use

ARTIST PROFILE: NATALIA MOROZ



Title: A Kitchen Table (12" x 16")

Website: <http://nataliamoroz.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Oil based Daniel Smith inks

I like this ink because: Good coverage, crisp prints, layers well in reduction prints (not too thick)

Paper: Rising Stonehenge white, 90lb

Other: [I used] Tack Reducer, it makes the ink less tacky, easier to mix, roll, and print

ARTIST PROFILE: ANNAMIE PRETORIUS



Title: Bosbokstrand (5.5" x 7.8")

Website: <https://inugie.com/>

Printed: With a press

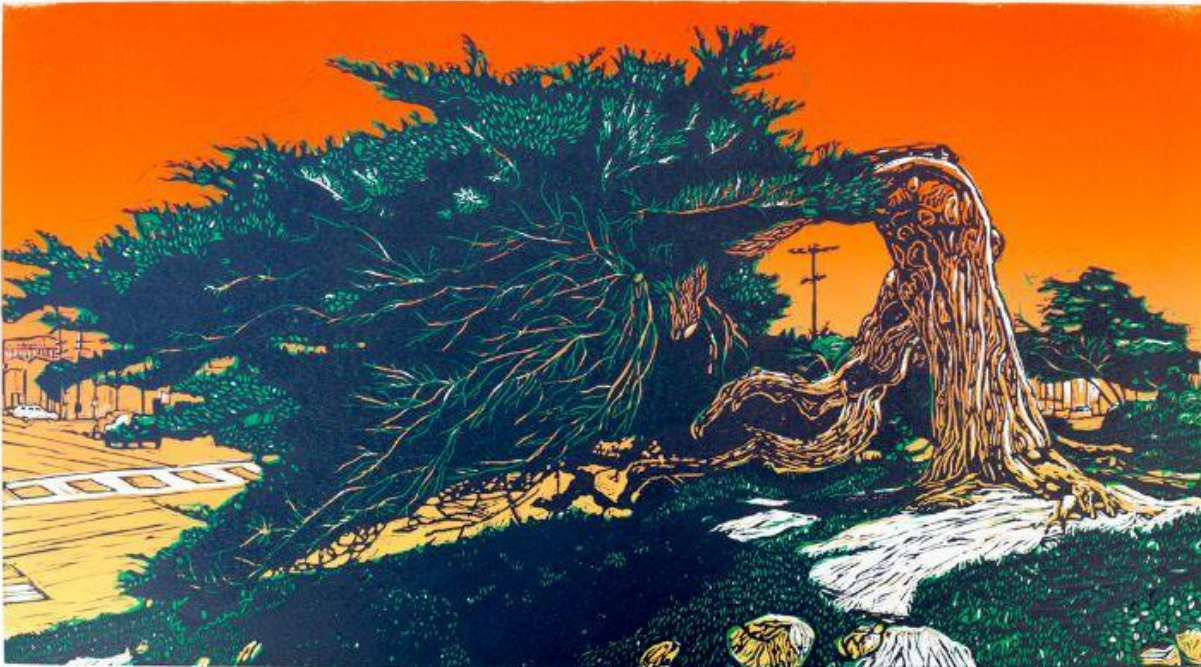
Ink: Schminke Water based lino ink

I like this ink because: Cheap and easy to use. I also like Graphic Chemical Water Soluble ink

Paper: Japanese Hosho from Intaglio printmaker shop

Other: It took a few tries to get the hang of registration. I use cardboard with a cut out the size of the lino and stick board onto this for the paper's corners

ARTIST PROFILE: 3 FISH STUDIOS ERIC REWITZER AND ANNIE GALVIN



Title: Windward – Sunset Orange
(24" x 14")

Website:

<https://www.3fishstudios.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because:

Consistent results and easy,
non-toxic clean up!

Paper: Rives BFK 250gsm and
300gsm. It gives me consistently
great results.

Other: [I use] Japanese Hand Brayers from McClains Printmaking Supply. The soft rubber roller holds and transfers inks well, and they are easy to clean up. Great sizes, too.

ARTIST PROFILE: KATE ROBINSON



Title: Malmesbury Abbey (dimensions unknown)

Website: <http://katerobinson.co.uk/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Caligo water soluble or TN Lawrence linseed oil based

I like this ink because: TN Lawrence for the colours, Caligo for the convenience

Paper: Zerkall or Somerset

ARTIST PROFILE: JULIE ROBINSON-SOUTHWARD



Title: Puffin (14.7cm x 10cm)

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/julierobinsonsouthward/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

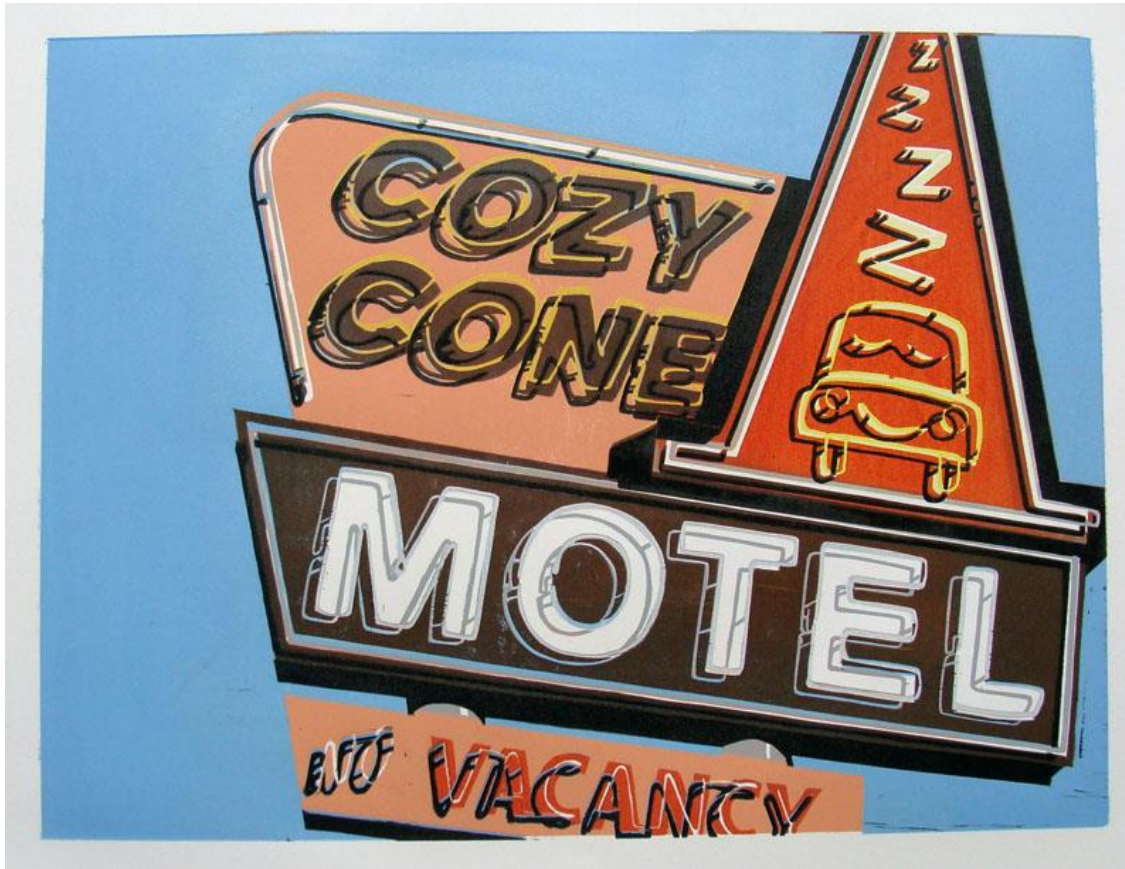
Ink: Intaglio Printmakers oil based etching ink

I like this ink because: It doesn't give an even layer, and I like the texture as the layers build up

Paper: Zerkall Handmade Printing Paper 210gsm

Other: [For a baren I use] traditional bamboo baren, cheap plastic baren from linocutting kit, small pebble, metal and wooden spoons

ARTIST PROFILE: DOUG THOMAS



Title: Cozy Cone Motel 8 (dimensions unknown)

Website: <http://dougthomas.blogspot.ca/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Gamblin Relief Ink

I like this ink because: I like the consistency of these inks. They are very soft and easy to use. The only downside is that they come in cans and I'm learning that there is a lot of waste with canned inks

Paper: I usually use Canson Edition paper - 250gsm - Bright White

Other: I've had issues with inks not adhering to one another and other times where the ink was too thick. The first problem occurred during a class and was remedied by switching from the etching inks that the instructor had to relief inks that I purchased myself. The second problem is remedied by not recharging the ink well when printing

ARTIST PROFILE: SINEAD WALL



Title: Hens (16" x12")

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/SineadWallPrintmaker>

Printed: With a press

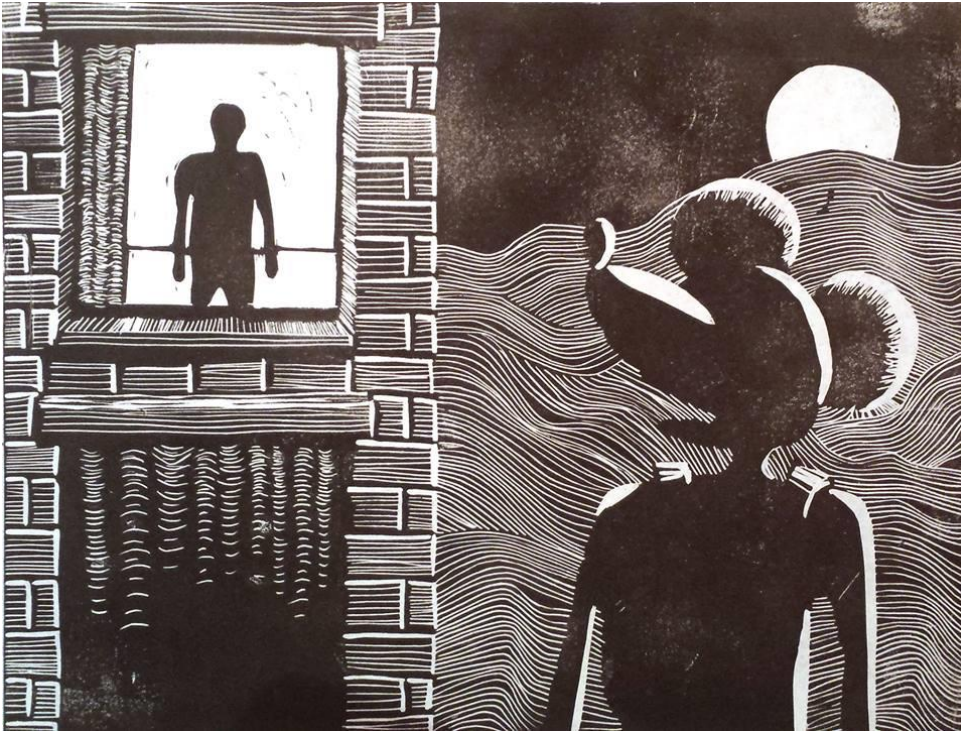
Ink: Lawrence Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Easy to clean up with soap and water

Paper: Fabriano

Other: [I use] Pfeil carving tools. Remain sharp for long time

ARTIST PROFILE: RODDY WILLIAMS



Title: The Apparition (200mm x 154mm)

Website: N/A (Find Roddy on Linocut Friends on Facebook)

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Schminke

I like this ink because: Being fairly new to printing, I am trying things out. Don't have enough experience of other inks as yet, but this is good

Paper: This was a test print on old sketchbook paper. I have Ho Sho paper for final prints

ARTIST PROFILE: SHARON WILLIAMSON



Title: Moonlight Hare (22cm x 14cm)

Website:

<http://sharonwilliamsonart.blogspot.ca/>

Printed: By hand (without a press)

Ink: Caligo Safe Wash Relief Ink

I like this ink because: Good colour, easy to clean up

Paper: 210gsm Zerkall paper

Other: This print was inspired by the hares I watch in the fields near where I live in rural Cambridgeshire

ARTIST PROFILE: SHERRIE YORK



© Sherrie York • www.sherrieyork.com

Title: Cruisin' (18" x 18")

Website: <http://sherrieyork.com/>

Printed: With a press

Ink: Daniel Smith with Graphic Chemical transparent base

I like this ink because: Inks highly pigmented, good body. GC base is okay, still looking for one I really like

Paper: Rives BFK 250gsm natural white

Other: Converting to a press has helped with repetitive motion issues caused by years of hand printing

BEST PRINTMAKING OR ART ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED?

Patience

- Spend a little more time mixing the exact color you want" rather than getting impatient and printing a close enough color
- Measure twice, cut once
- Take time to prepare properly, have patience in your work
- Focus on composition. Do not transfer a sketch on a plate before you feel the composition is strong
- Patience with carving
- Really look at a subject before you start drawing and try drawing direct with a pen and ink. It will improve your observation and concentration on the subject
- Plan working layer colours before cutting, and write down how mixed colours
- Take your time, you can only cut once, and draw, draw, draw
- If you make a mistake in cutting, you have ONLY 3 choices..... Redesign, Love it and Leave it, or just throw it OUT. Saves a lot of time

Tools and Techniques

- Get a magnifying lamp
- Hmm, to use oil-based ink, perhaps
- Keep your fingers behind the blades!
- Sand the Lino first
- Always start with the number 1 "v" nib to create a moat around your image. Now you can test print and if you slip, your moat can stop before you cut something you don't want to
- Make sure the ink is the right consistency
- Don't over press
- Ink should never manage to travel past your knuckles!
- Sand the lino with wet and dry sandpaper before you start. Mount the lino onto thin board
- Advice on multi block printing and registering work so it lines up exactly
- I do so love Lenny Lanes Blotting Tip.... "Just blot it, every time you take a print off the press or table - just blot it."

Experiment

- You learn the most through printing, making mistakes and trying again.
- Keep experimenting and always learn from your mistakes / Just keep playing. Experiment and see what happens
- Every perceived failure is just another step in the learning process. Keep going and don't let failures slow down your progress
- Invent a solution when you have a problem
- Try things out and experiment - it's the best way to learn (and have happy accidents!)
- There is no "bad" work ... at worst, problems are learning opportunities
- From another printmaker who said doing something that seems ambitious can result in the greatest learning and greatest satisfaction
- Resist perfection. If you make a mistake, paint it red

Just Keep Going and Other Emotional Concerns

- Do it for yourself because you love it
- Keep trying even if you feel that your work is not good enough, it's making art that's most important, not the result, and if you stick to that the results often follow automatically
- Don't start an art career trying to make work that will sell. You'll never be happy and your heart won't be in it. The audience for your art is out there, you just have to be patient and diligent in finding it
- Continue to make the things you love and don't worry about people accepting your work
- Over so many years, it varies. I think what is important is to trust your own judgement and not work for the approval of others
- You don't have to take everyone's advice, but you do have to listen
- The best advice I received was encouragement by a college professor to take any opportunity to show my work
- "The artist may use any form which his expression demands... A deliberate search for personality and 'style' is not only impossible, but comparatively unimportant." --Vassily Kandinsky. From "Concerning the Spiritual in Art."
- "Don't be an artist - you won't make any money." How true...
- Make art for yourself rather than trying to produce something that you think might sell well
- Never stop working, especially during a creative slump
- Be true to yourself, Follow your whimsy
- Stop making excuses and just do it / Just enjoy it / Just do it!

ADVICE YOU WISH SOMEONE GAVE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED?

Registering Prints

- How to register.
- How to register accurately.
- I wish I had been taught about using pins and tabs for registration. I was taught using pencil marks, which is not exact. Pins and tabs (taped on part of the paper that I will tear away) is the most accurate registration method I have found.
- Using inverted drawing pins for registration.
- I wish I knew earlier how to use registration for reduction prints. I learned it quite late and it was so simple.

Invest in Good Tools, Understand and Take Care of Them

- Get good quality tools and learn how to sharpen them from the start.
- Invest in the best quality tools and materials you can afford.
- Invest in quality tools.
- Don't be a penny pincher, buy the best tools, ink, paper you can.
- Learning to sharpen tools is just as important as learning how to carve the relief print.
- Use a press if you can (unless you're making woodcuts) - buy a small one or join a studio where you can use one. It makes the process so much less painful.
- Good quality printmaking paper is crucial, and thinner papers almost always give better results. Oh, and always print on the smooth side...
- Using a baren - I used a spoon when I started.
- Always cut away from your body.
- Not all inks will overprint. Read the small print first. When I started I bought a set of inks and struggled for weeks with them as every time I printed with them the underlying layers lifted off. It was only when I read the small print on the bottles that I noticed it said not suitable for overprinting - I hadn't realised that and I nearly gave up!

Experiment

- To experiment with materials more
- Experiment more with multiple blocks and ink transparencies

Embrace Mistakes

- Be patient. Each print is a learning experience and it takes years to make any process like this part of one's creative vocabulary
- Find your own style and don't be afraid of taking risks
- Expect it to take time to learn your craft and time to build your audience
- Stop worrying and just do it
- Learn to accept and work around the mistakes you make
- Be prepared to make lots of mistakes
- Don't be afraid to make a mistake, you learn more from mistakes once you've figured out why you've made them
- Don't stress over imperfections, they add interest to the work / Stop trying so hard

Listen to Your Inner Voice

- Your print doesn't have to be in an edition for your printmaking practice to be valid. A surprising number of my printmaking professors and fellow students were fixated by the multiple. I'm more interested in the processes of carving, inking and working in a mirrored way and how that affects the image--I only need to print one for my curiosity to be satisfied
- Doing something that seems ambitious can result in the greatest learning and greatest satisfaction...I was told I was trying to run before I could walk, that undermined my confidence

Use Colour, or Don't

- Use color
- Do Black & White for one year before moving on to color reduction

Linocut Friends

- I was taught a lot of misinformation by teachers who were in fact not relief printers, and who seemed to think they could "wing and pray it" - 'cos it "was only linoprinting" -- I have corrected more misinformation this last 18 months on Linocut Friends --- so my one piece of advice NOW would be to join this group, and LEARN from this amazing group of learners
- Look at Linocut friends frequently. You constantly see a variety of work and can learn from the questions that are asked

Keep Track of Your Work

- Keep excel spreadsheets of all of your editions
- Make a note of everything you do, keep sketches, take photos of stages

Unique Answers

- Share techniques that work and communicate more clearly. Don't assume that I know what you are talking about when you use abbreviated language that only you know what it means
- None. I had a master teacher! He taught me all I needed to get me here today
- Beware! Linocutting is addictive!

————— **THE END** —————

