

Printmaking vocabulary

1. Printmaking – Allows you to create multiple originals of an art work. The process transfers the image from the inked surface to the paper.
2. Linoleum Print: Also referred to as a linocut, linoleum prints are a type of print produced by cutting lines or removing areas from a sheet of heavy linoleum glued to a rigid backing.
3. Original Prints - An original print is one made by an artist that is designed to be a print. The artist chooses a specific printmaking medium because of the qualities it will give the print.
4. Reproduction Prints - A reproduction print is a print that is a copy of an original artwork. Reproduction prints are made with a commercial printing process. The original painting, drawing, etc., is photographed and then a reproduction print is made of the original. A reproduction print is just a picture of an original artwork.
5. Edition - A series of prints of the same image. In making art prints, all the prints are alike, but each is considered to be an original work of art. Each print in an edition is numbered and signed by the artist as it is completed. The prints are numbered with a fractional number. The numerator shows the number of the print in the sequence of the edition. The denominator indicates the total number of prints in the edition. A print that is marked 6/25 shows that it is the sixth print of an edition of twenty-five prints.
6. Plate: A sheet of any material prepared to be inked in order to make prints.
7. Printing Press: A machine that transfers the image to be printed by contact with ink and paper.
8. Brayer: A tool used to roll ink onto a surface by hand, usually in linoleum printing.
9. Barron: A small, flat pad of woven bamboo bark used to impress a print from a plate.
10. Bench hook: A metal board that hooks over a table and which holds the plate during the carving process. It acts as a stop and keeps the plate from slipping away.
11. Register: In printmaking, registration is the proper positioning of plates. Any mark made to assist in positioning the plate for better alignment can be called a register mark.
12. Printing Ink: Liquid containing pigment used for writing printing. Printing ink is actually more closely related to paints than to the pen and brush inks.