

# Printmaking Timeline

- 105 AD** Paper invented in China.
- 1380** WOODCUT PRINTING: Earliest known woodcut in Europe: *The Bois Protat*
- 1420-30** PRINTED ENGRAVING: Silversmiths and armorers begin reproduce decorative engravings from metal plates.
- 1440-50** LETTERPRESS PRINTING: Moveable type is developed by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany.
- 1497** *The Apocalypse* is published by German Artist Albrecht Durer.
- 1513** ETCHING: Swiss artist Urs Graf produces what is possibly the first etching.
- 1653** Dutch artist Rembrandt creates the etching *The Three Crosses*.
- 1735** British artist William Hogarth creates the engravings of *A Rake's Progress*.
- 1794** British engraver and poet William Blake prints *Songs of Innocence and Experience*.
- 1796-8** LITHOGRAPHY: Struggling German playwright, Alois Senefelder, discovers lithography.
- 1796-8** Spanish artist Francisco Goya creates the series of prints *Los Caprichos*.
- 1834** French Artist Honore Daumier creates the lithograph *Rue Tansnonain*. Police seize the stone.
- 1839** Daguerreotype, an early photographic process, is invented by Louis Jacques Mande Dauguerre
- 1852** PHOTOGRAVURE: William Henry Fox Talbot - patents an early version of the photographic printmaking process.
- ca 1880-90** Halftone process invented. Four-color process printing invented. (CMYK: cyan, magenta, yellow and black)
- 1893** Henri de Toulouse Lautrec, designs the cover for *L'Estampe Original*. Edvard Munch prints *The Scream*.
- 1896** The metals aluminum and zinc are used to produce lithographic surfaces to replace the use of limestone.
- 1906** Offset Lithography invented in America.
- 1919** Marcel Duchamp defaces a reproduction of the *Mona Lisa* to create *L.H.O.O.Q.*
- 1924** German artist Otto Dix creates the portfolio *The War*
- 1935-43** The WPA's Federal Art Project fosters printmaking through the Great Depression.
- 1957** Universal Limited Art Editions is established by Tatyana Grosman on Long Island, NY.
- 1960** Tamarind Lithography Workshop is founded by June Wayne in Los Angeles.
- ca 1960** Automatic electrostatic copiers become widely available.
- 1964** Andy Warhol prints Brillo Boxes.
- 1966** Artist Ed Ruscha creates the book *Every Building on the Sunset Strip*.
- 1967** Robert Rauschenberg creates *Booster* at the print studio Gemini GEL.
- 1972** Southeastern Graphics Council is founded by Boyd Saunders from the University of South Carolina. Becomes the Southern Graphics Council in 1978.
- 1984** Apple releases the first personal computer with a graphical user interface.
- 1987** First Iris printer is introduced for printing photographs.
- 1990** Adobe Photoshop 1.0 is released.
- 1990** Felix Gonzalez-Torres creates *Untitled (Death by Gun)* an unlimited edition of offset lithographs.
- 1994** Internet becomes available to public. Epson releases first color desktop inkjet printer.
- 1999** First *Impact International Printmaking Conference* held in Bristol, UK.
- 2001** *Digital: Printmaking Now* exhibit opens at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.
- 2003** *Kiki Smith: Prints, Books and Things* opens at MoMA in New York.

# Printmaking: Processes

## Relief

Woodcut, Linoleum Cut, Letterpress, Collograph

Any process in which the printing surface is cut away so that the image area alone remains raised on the surface. Ink is rolled across the surface of the matrix and the raised areas receive ink while the areas that have been cut away do not. Wood or linoleum are most commonly used.

## Intaglio

Drypoint, Etching, Aquatint, Engraving, Mezzotint, Collograph, Photogravure, Photo-etching

Intaglio is the general term used for any process in which ink is held beneath the surface of a metal plate in incised or etched lines or marks. Plates are printed by working ink into the entire surface, which is then wiped clean. Dampened paper is pressed into the plate with a press forcing the ink onto the paper, while embossing the mark of the plate and its surface. Copper, zinc and steel are most commonly used. Intaglio comes from the Italian word *intagliare* meaning “to incise”

## Lithography

Lithography, Photolithography

Lithographs are printed from polished slabs of limestone or aluminum plates that have been drawn on by the artist with greasy crayons and washes. Once the drawing is complete the printing surface is chemically treated to secure the image. The areas that have not been drawn on will then hold water and repel the oil-based printing ink and the drawn areas will hold ink and repel water since oil and water will not mix. The stone or plate can then be dampened with water and inked with a roller coated with ink, so impressions of the image can be made. Literally translated from Greek, it means stone (litho) writing (graph). Its discovery was documented by its inventor, Alois Senefelder in 1796. The process has evolved into offset lithography, a high speed commercial printing process that is used to print a wide variety of materials including books, magazines, and newspapers.



Albrecht Durer. *Hercules*. Woodcut. 1496-97.



Abraham Bosse. *Intaglio Printing*. Etching. 1642.

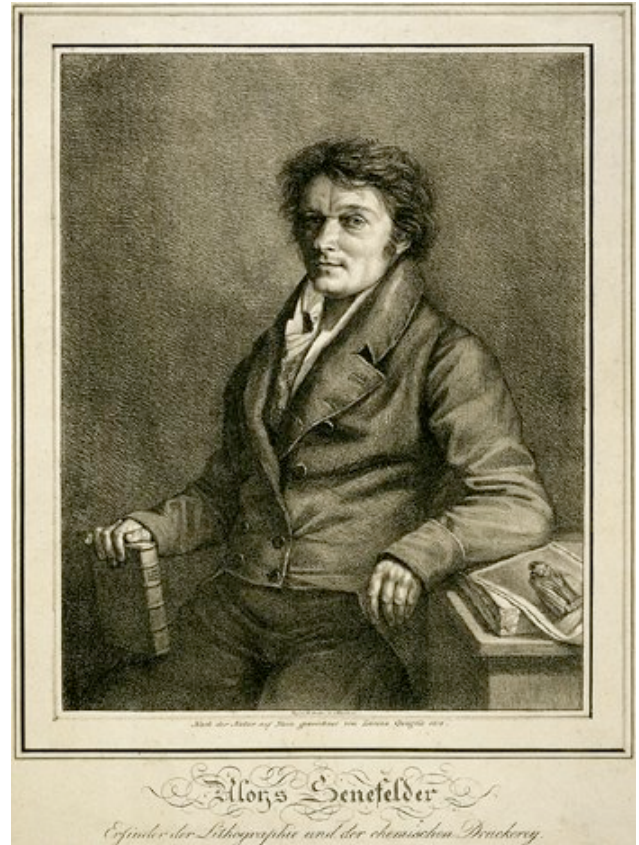


## Screen-printing

Screenprinting, also known as serigraphy and erroneously as silkscreen, is essentially a stencil process. First a fine mesh of synthetic fabric is stretched around a frame. Then an image is created on the screen by directly drawing on the screen or, more commonly, by coating the screen with a light-sensitive emulsion which will capture the image. The areas that will not print will be blocked out with these materials leaving the image areas open for ink to pass through them. Ink is poured onto the screen and a squeegee is used to force the ink through the openings in the screen on to a substrate which can be paper or any other smooth material.

## Monotype / Monoprint

A monotype is essentially a printed painting. Ink is applied to a plate, which is typically plexiglas, by painting or by using rollers, and then printed to a sheet of paper. The image is unique, hence 'mono' meaning 'one', although a faint 'ghost' impression can be printed the second time through the press. A monoprint may incorporate monotype techniques, but also employs an image printed from a matrix such as a lithograph, woodcut, etching, etc. Although a series of monoprints contains a repeated image, they have varied in some way to make each one unique rather than essentially alike one another.



Lithograph of Alois Senefelder, the inventor of lithography, by Lorenz Quaglio from *Specimens of Polyautography*. 1818.



Andy Warhol. *Marilyn*. Screenprint. 36 x 36". 1967.