

# Introduction to Printmaking

The history of the types of Printmaking

# What is Printmaking?

- **The process of creating a series of artworks from an original design.**
- **Printmaking goals are to create multiples of an original image, called running a SERIES.**
- **Each print from a series is actually an original, just like a painting or drawing.**
- **Printmaking began as an approach to make artworks more accessible to the general public.**

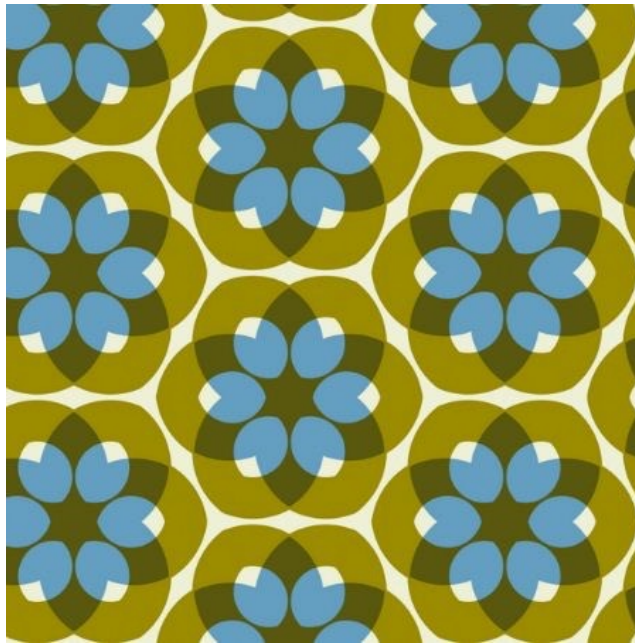
# Identifying styles of images helps understand types of Printmaking!

## GRAPHIC / STYLIZED-

Bold; simplified; clean shapes.

FLAT COLOR= NO SHADING

Eye-catching



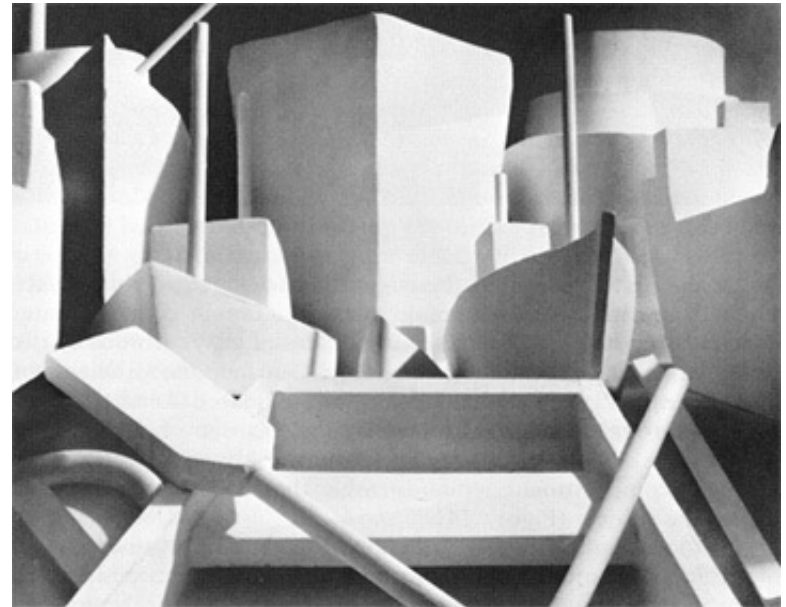
VS.

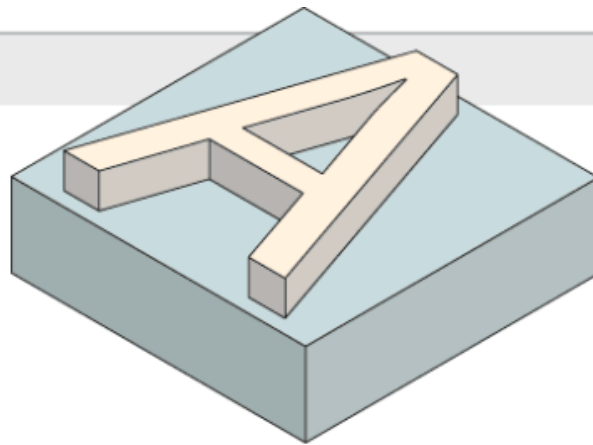
## REPRESENTATIONAL-

USE OF VALUES/ SHADING

Subtle; detailed

3-D

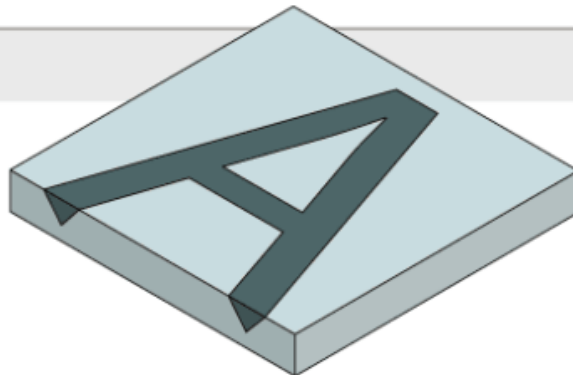




**relief printing** (*letterpress*)



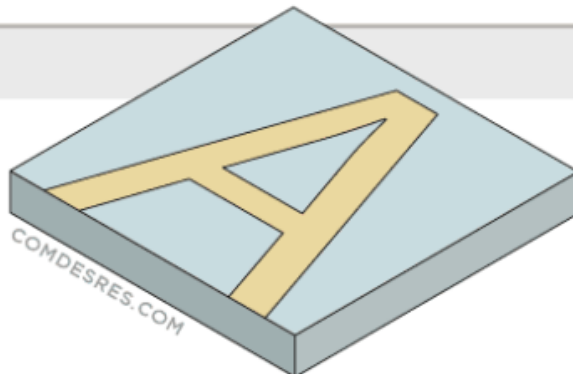
Printing area is raised from the non-printing area.



**intaglio** (*engraving*)



Printing area is lowered from the non-printing area.



**planography** (*lithography*)



Printing and non-printing areas are on the same level and are separated chemically.

# Relief Printmaking

- Arguably the oldest type of printmaking.
- Two main techniques include woodcut and letterpress:
  - WOOD OR LINOLEUM CUT- Marks are carved in to a wooden or linoleum block.
  - LETTERPRESS- individually carved or cast letter blocks are assembled to form body of text.
- The Gutenberg Bible was one of the first books produced using moveable type and revolutionized how information was shared.



# Identifying Relief Prints

- Shapes are clean cut
- Carving marks are evident
- Colors are typically flat
- Image is stylized

From 135 woodblock prints  
Woodblock print, 19-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



# Johan Gutenberg

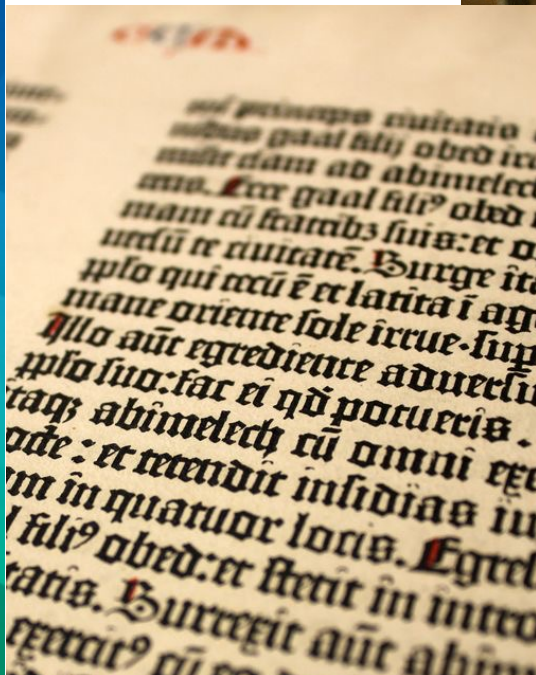


Hypothetical portrait of Gutenberg  
Harry Ransom Center, UT Austin

- Invented the printing press in the 1400's.
- Revolutionized the distribution of knowledge by making it possible to produce many copies of a work in a relatively short amount of time.
- The printing press was the Twitter of the 15 century!



# Letterpress Print



Johan Gutenberg, Bible,  
Letterpress, 1450  
49 copies exist in the world, Harry Ransom Center UT Austin



# Letterpress tools

## Letterpress Machine



## Typeface



# Woodblock Print



Katsushika Hokusai, The Great Wave Off Kanagawa,  
Woodblock Print, 1830  
The Metropolitan Museum, New York.



# Block printing tools



**Brayer**

*Used to roll ink smoothly  
onto block*



**Carving Tool**

*Blades are interchangeable to  
create different lines*



**Carved Block**

# Intaglio

- Marks are sunken in to the plate, and untouched surfaces are blank or white.
- Two main techniques include etching and intaglio:
  - ETCHING- Marks are made in to a “ground” or resist and the plate submerged in acid to etch or “bite” the plate.
  - INTAGLIO- Mark-making is done directly to the plate (also known as dry point). No acid is involved.



# Identifying Intaglio Prints

- Marks look like they were drawn with a pen
- Ink lines are rich
- Prints are typically more representational



Lucille Sinclair Douglass, *Grand Stairway- Angkor Wat*

Etching print, 1927

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

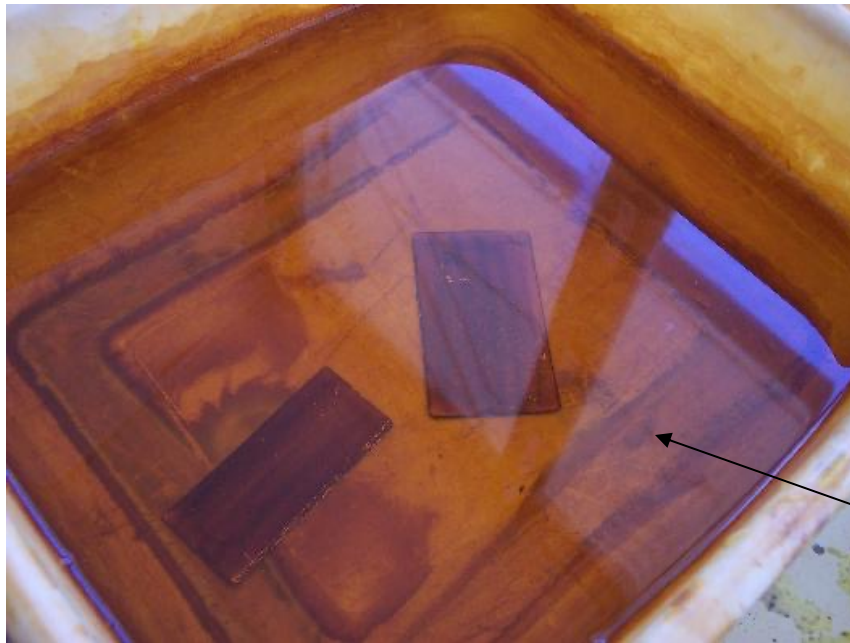
# Intaglio tools



**Etching Stylus**



**Etched Copper**



**Plates in acid**



# Etching



Rembrandt Van Rijn , *Self-Portrait Etching at a Window*  
Engraving, 1648  
The Metropolitan Museum, New York.

# Intaglio

Albrecht Durer, *The Promenade*  
Engraving, 1498  
The Metropolitan Museum, New York.





# Monoprint / Monotype

- A type of printmaking which cannot be exactly duplicated.
- Many artists use the technique to experiment with less expensive materials than paint and canvas- it allows for more speedy adjustments and creations.
- Many famous artists experiment with the technique as a way to sketch- like Degas, Cassatt, Gauguin, and Picasso.

# Identifying Monotype Prints

- Look “Painterly”
- Typically feature layering and soft color
- Prints appear experimental and sketch-like



Edgar Degas, *Landscape*  
Monotype print, 1892  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

# Monotype tools



**Plexiglass**

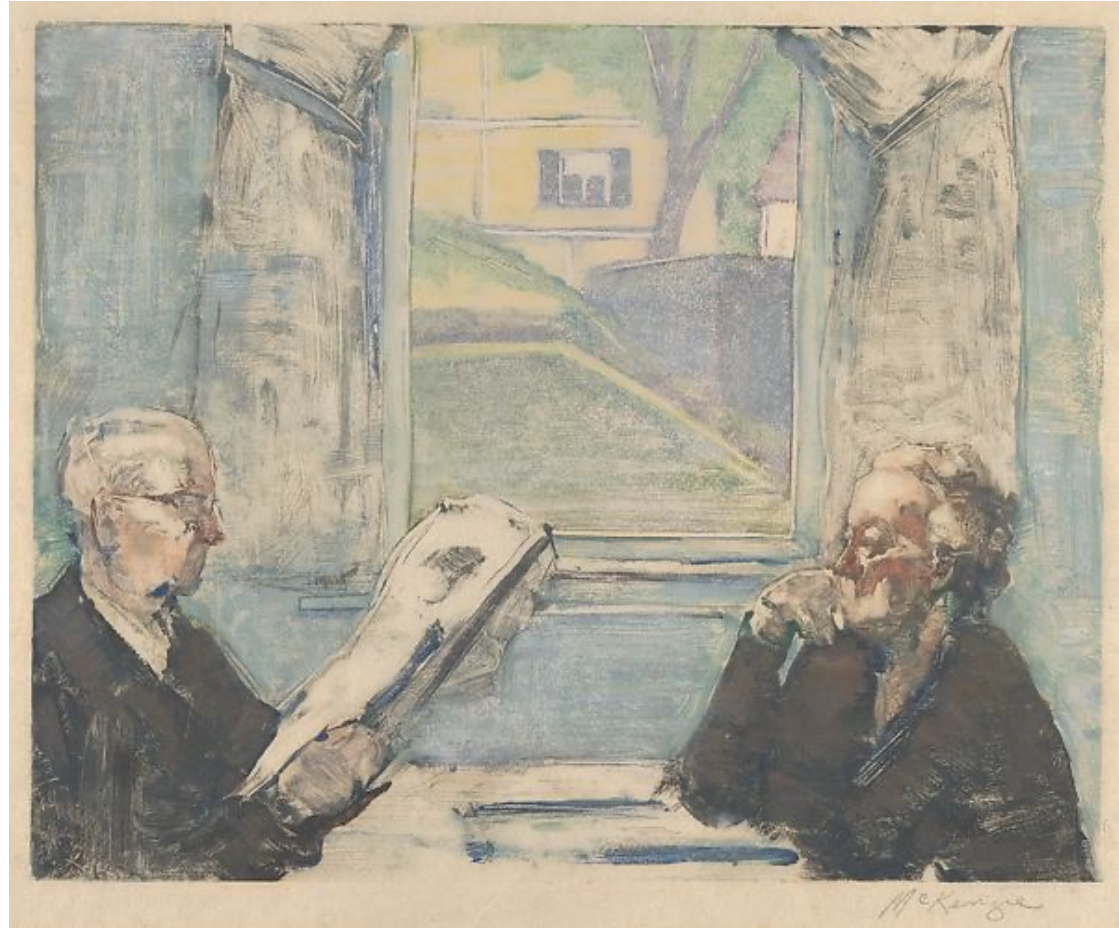
**Paint brushes**



**Printmaking press**



# Monotype



Mary Beth McKenzie, *Morning Papers*  
Monotype, 1989  
The Metropolitan Museum, New York.

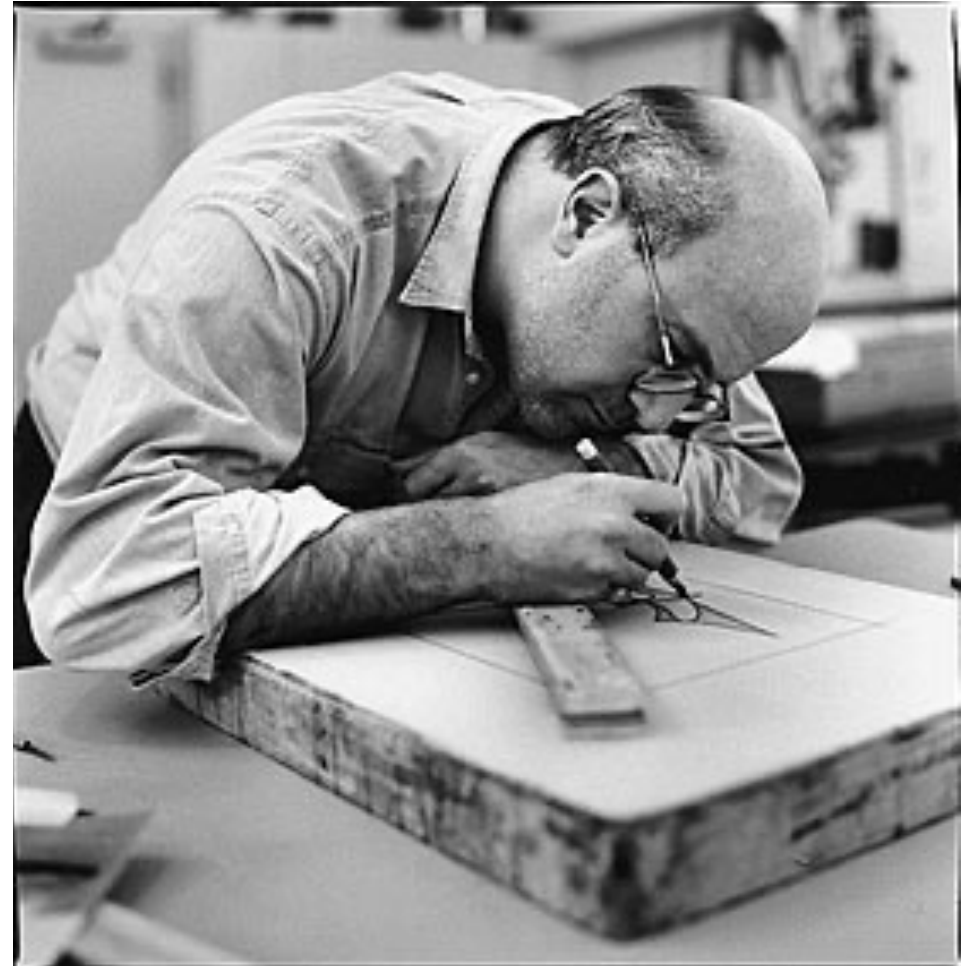
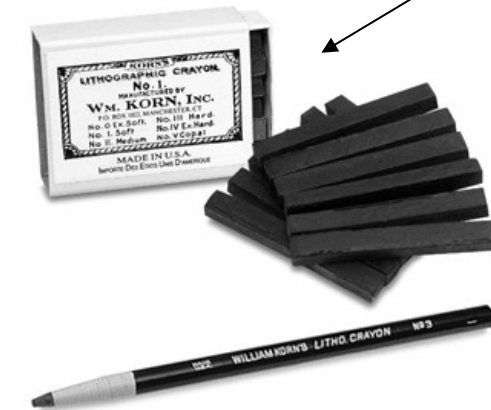


# Lithography

- Marks are drawn or painted on to a stone with greasy materials (tusche or litho crayons). The image is on the same surface as the stone.
- Invented by Alois Senefelder in Germany (1798), Lithography was the first new printmaking technology since relief.
- Lithography was even faster to reproduce than relief prints.
- Lithography stones come from only one area in the world (Germany- Bavaria and France)

# Lithograph tools

## Litho Crayon



## Lithographic Limestone

# Identifying Lithograph Prints

- Colors have a grainy texture
- Prints look like drawings done in pastel or crayon

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, *The Box with the Gilded Mask*

Lithograph print, 1894

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York





# Lithograph



Honoré Daumier, *Masks of 1831 in La Caricature*  
Lithograph, 1832  
The Metropolitan Museum, New York.

# Serigraphy

- Latin: seri= silk, Greek: graphien= to write or draw.
- Screenprinting was developed in America in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Screen printing was the fastest production of an image yet!
- 3 techniques to create a screenprint-
  - Stencil- attaching a pre-cut material to block ink.
  - Emulsion- a light-sensitive material to create an image.
  - Drawing fluid- temporarily blocks areas to mask excess spaces

# Screen Printing tools



**silk screen**

**squeegee**

**Hinged clamps**



# Identifying Silkscreen Prints

- Shapes are flat and sharp
- Prints typically feature bold colors



Ed Ruscha, *Standard Station*  
Silkscreen print, 1966  
Museum of Modern Art, New York

# Photo emulsion and stencil silkscreen print

Andy Warhol, *Marilyn Monroe*  
Silkscreen print, 1967  
Museum of Modern Art, New York



# Resources

- <https://www.high.org>
- <https://www.metmuseum.org/>
- <http://washingtonprintmakers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/PrintmakingIntroduction.pdf>
- <https://www.hrc.utexas.edu/exhibitions/permanent/gutenbergbible/>
- <http://comdesres.com/visiting-alois-senefelder/>
- <https://www.moma.org/>