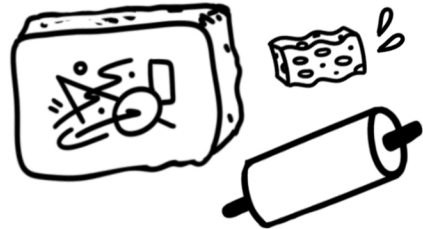


Where other printmaking methods are associated with highly graphic aesthetic outcomes, lithography is uniquely effective at replicating texture and tone.



In litho, greasy crayons and other media are used to etch images in a stone or plate, which is then sponged with water. When ink is applied, it adheres only to those predetermined greasy areas, due to water and oil's mutually repellent properties.

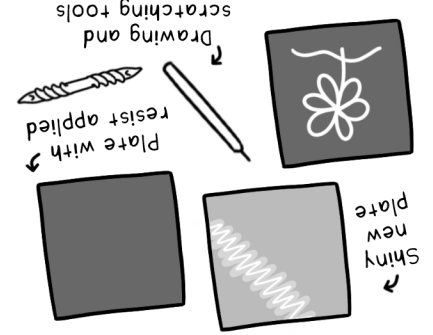
LITHOGRAPHY

Prints made as etchings can often be identified by platemarks, which provide visual evidence of where a plate is pressed into the paper during printing.



ETCHING

Sometimes known as intaglio, etching involves ink being applied to grooves in a metal plate (rather than to its raised surfaces, as in relief). These grooves are created by acid, which eats into exposed metal. Those exposed areas are created when the artist scratches marks through a resist which is applied to the plate to start.

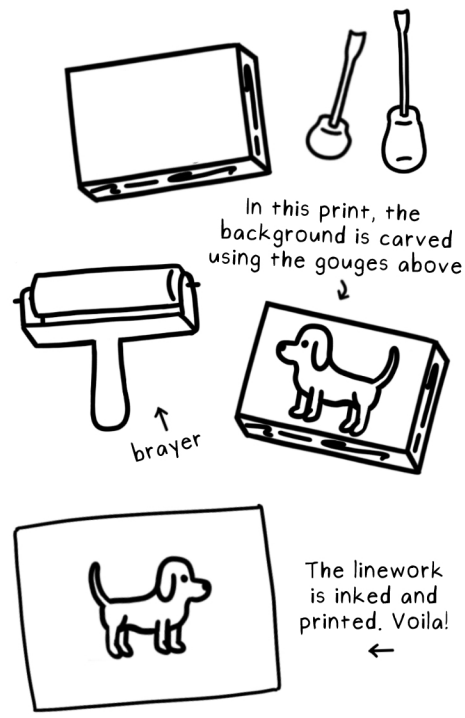


RELIEF

The simplest printmaking form, relief involves carving or cutting into a matrix (often a block of wood) and applying ink to the block's remaining raised surfaces. Relief is an umbrella term encompassing mokuhanga, letterpress, and more. Even fingerprints are relief prints!



Wood blocks are usually carved with gouges, and ink is applied with a brayer or roller. The image is sent through a press (or printed by hand) and appears as a mirror image of the matrix when complete.



Serigraphs (also known as screenprints) are created when ink is pushed through a screen of tightly woven mesh. Historically made from silk, these screens are now mostly synthetic.

SERIGRAPHY



What kind of print is that?

A GUIDE TO PRINTS AND HOW THEY'RE MADE



by Katie Garth



Artists block out areas of a screen where ink should not pass through, sometimes using stencils or stop-out, and now commonly using a photographic process in which UV exposure hardens a light-sensitive chemical emulsion.

MONOTYPE

Some artists approach printmaking more spontaneously. Instead of using a highly planned process that allows an image to be reproduced many times, they might choose to make monotypes.

Monotype techniques vary widely. A common approach is to "paint" an image on plexi-glass with ink and then transfer the image to paper. So long as an image is made with a matrix, a substrate, and pressure, it's a print. If the matrix loses its image during the printing process, it's likely a monotype.