

The Art of Print Making

Limited Editions, Lithographs and Giclees

Print Making is the process in which original paintings are translated to Limited Editions. Lithography, Offset Lithography, Giclee, and Silkscreening are all fine printing techniques which are in themselves an 'art' form. A print maker works with the artist and uses the finest quality materials and techniques to produce fine "works of Art".

Lithography is a printing technique that uses a planographic process. The prints are pulled on a special press from a flat stone or metal surface. The surface has been chemically sensitized so that ink sticks only to the design areas, and is repelled by the non-image areas. Lithography was invented in Solnhofen, Germany by Alois Senefelder in 1798. The early history of Lithography is represented by the great French artists Daumier and Delacroix (and later Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Braque and Miro).

Offset Lithography is a special photo-mechanical technique. The image to be printed is transferred to negative plates and printed onto paper. In the process of producing limited editions the finest reprographic techniques are used to split the original painting into the four printing colors. Lithography uses tiny dots of four colors -cyan, magenta, yellow and black-so that colors are created by printing different size dots of these four colors. High quality mechanical printing then enables the translation of this image onto paper.

The plates are destroyed in order that the authenticity and integrity of the Limited Edition print is maintained.

GICLEE

Giclee (zhee-CLAY) is a French term meaning 'a spray of ink'. A giclee is an individually produced, high-resolution, fine quality reproduction done on a special large format printer. Giclees can be printed on any number of media, from canvas to archival watercolor paper to vinyl, to transparent acetates. Since giclee printers can use media in rolls, large print sizes are available, limited only by the length and



479-253-7878
storch@ipa.net

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width of the roll.

Giclees are considered by many to be superior to traditional lithography in many respects. The colors are brighter, last longer, and are so high-resolution that they are virtually 'continuous tone', rather than tiny dots. The range of color for giclees is far beyond that of lithography, and details are crisper.

With oil, the process captures the true texture of a piece. The giclee process renders deep, saturated colors, and accurately represents the textures found in an oil painting. This offers the feel of the quality of the original in the giclee print.

Giclee prints retain minute detail, subtle tints and blends. The prints may be hand embellished by the artist using ink and gold foil stamping for a mixed media effect.

THE GICLEE PROCESS

Giclees use inkjet technology far more sophisticated than your desktop printer. The process uses a minimum of six colors—light cyan, cyan, light magenta, magenta, yellow and usually two or more black-of lightfast (fade resistant,) pigmented inks and finer, more numerous, replaceable printheads resulting in a wider color gamut. The ink is sprayed on, actually mixing the color on the page to create truer shades and hues.

Giclees were originally developed as a proofing system for traditional lithographic printing. It soon became apparent that the presses were having a hard time delivering the quality and brilliant color of the giclee proofs.

The production of a Giclee print is not an automated process but one that requires skilled craftsmanship. The original art is scanned into the computer and color corrected by an experienced eye and hand for adjustments in tone, contrast, sharpness, and other factors, to faithfully reproduce the original. The computer image is further adjusted to the final print results and lastly the printer must be adjusted to produce consistent, quality results.

COLLECTOR TIPS

The faithful translation of original paintings into Limited Editions enables an artist's work to be enjoyed by more collectors. Limited edition litho and serigraph prints are usually produced in editions of 500-1000 or more, all at once. Giclees rarely exceed 50-100 high-quality reproductions, one at a time and are priced midway between original art and regular limited edition lithographs.

The hand written number which appears on each lithograph print guarantees not only the size but also the authenticity of the edition. The plates, films and materials used in the reproduction are destroyed following printing to further ensures their authenticity.

Each edition bears the unique signature of the artist. The signature authenticates each reproduction of the artist's original painting and also ensures the edition is to their complete satisfaction.

DAVID'S
GICLEE
PRINTING

Fine art
Photographic Archiving and Reproduction
paper and canvas
dharvey@uark.edu
P.H. 479-981-6346

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