Intaglio Printmaking
A Studio Course
Professor Bruce Muirhead

A) Lecture making plate and printing demonstration

Work Session

Crit

Students **must not** miss class because you must work with the instructor in order to master the complicated technique required in etching. It is a hands-on course. Poor attendance will result in a significant lowering of your grade.

B) Four major prints plus several state proofs

1. Line Etching hard ground plus dry point
2. Soft ground plus aquatint
3. Combination of Techniques
4. Final Print
5. Presentation of Portfolio

First four weeks mandatory attendance in order to learn basic process.

Students must pay attention to all the signs posted in the studio for your safety and protection of the environment.

Grade based on work habits and evaluation of portfolio.

Professor Statement: Good work habits are very important in this class. This class is about experiential learning. You work closely with the teacher on an individual basis. Because of this class attendance in mandatory. There is no such thing as cramming and doing all your work at the last moment. Portfolios are due at the last day of class. You must plan your semester thoughtfully, so that you are not overwhelmed at the end.
Printmaking Studio Guidelines
Safety Cleanup and Recycle

1. Wear safety glasses when using acid and cutting tools.
2. Learn where the eyewash stations, emergency shower, fire extinguishers and first aid kit are.
3. Turn off all hot plates at the end of the work session.
4. Recycle all solvents at the end of the day by pouring them into the special red containers for solvents.
5. Store all solvents and flammable chemicals in the yellow fireproof cabinet.
6. At the end of the day put all tools away in the proper cabinets.
7. Clean all brayers and rollers and ink surfaces before leaving the studio in order to cut down on fumes.
8. No eating and drinking in the studio.
9. When using acid or the aquatint box turn on overhead ventilation system. Turn it off when you are through.
10. Remember to pick up and keep the studio clean to avoid noxious fumes and dirty chemical residues. Keep this work space clean!

SAFETY RULES FOR PRINTMAKING STUDIO

1. **Protect Yourself from toxic substances and dangerous procedures.**
   Understand your body’s responses to toxic exposures. **Inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact** are the three routes toxic substances are exposed to the body. Inhalation of airborne chemicals can affect the nose, upper respiratory tract, and...
lungs. Upon entering the bloodstream, they affect the blood, bone, heart, brain, and liver. Ingestion can result in an exposure to most of the internal organs or even local action on the stomach wall. Some materials are absorbed through the skin into the bloodstream and thus affect some of the most sensitive areas of the body. Skin contact can also cause allergic reactions and dermatitis from loss of protective skin oils.

The body reacts to toxic exposures in a variety of ways. **Irritation** is the result of materials that adversely affect the nasal passages, respiratory tract, and lungs. Lung sensitization from irritant gases, vapors, or dusts results in an asthmatic type of reaction. Skin contact can result in a dermatitis that is visible as a blister, rash, or scar. Sometimes skin contact results in an allergic dermatitis that is irreversible and often spreads to other parts of the body. **Central nervous system depression or narcosis** is caused by a variety of chemicals that enter the body from any route. Overexposure symptoms progress from headache, dizziness, blurred vision, incoordination, mental confusion, weakness, and fatigue to eventual loss of consciousness.

Most acute effects of overexposure are short-term and the body can recover. However, chronic unsafe practices can create long-term health problems, such as cancer, lung disorders, and reproductive system damage. Pregnant women and young children are especially susceptible to long-term effects.

2. **Do not smoke or eat in the printshop.** Smoking reduces the efficiency of the lungs and makes a person more vulnerable to inhalation exposures. Foods absorb toxic substances from the air and dirty hands can carry particles into your system. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly before eating.

3. **Protect your skin.** Use a hand lotion regularly to replace lost oils. This helps prevent cracking and chafing. Cover cuts with band-aids. Use a barrier cream to protect your hands from some chemicals and to facilitate cleaning. Wear gloves when appropriate.

4. **Wear proper protective clothing and equipment when working.** Aprons or coveralls are *de rigueur*. Keep long hair back. Wear eye protection when working with motor tools and acids. Wear appropriate gloves when working with acids, inks, and solvents. Wear dust masks when working with rosin aquatints or any other dusty procedure. Wear a respirator if local exhaust is not available or adequate. Never go barefoot or wear open-toed shoes.

5. **Practice safe use of solvents.** Keep the work area well ventilated. Turn on any supplemental exhaust system that is available. Do not use large amounts of solvents in the open room; use only at the fume hoods. Use the smallest amount of the least toxic solvent that will do the job at hand. Dispose of any solvent-soaked rags in covered cans. Know the materials that you are working with in case of emergency. (See appendix charts.)
6. **Know your physical limitations.** Do not try to do something by yourself when it is really a two-person job. Do not work when you are too tired.

7. **Do not use tools or equipment without proper instruction.** Keep tools in good condition. Properly sharpened tools perform better and reduce the risk of accidents. Never use electrical tools with damaged cords.

8. **Know where the first aid kit is.**

9. **Know where the fire extinguisher is.**

10. **Know where the eyewash and emergency shower are.**

11. **Know where the telephone is:**

   - Dial 911 or emergencies
   - Record emergency telephone numbers here:
   - Poison Control:
   - Campus police:
   - Local police:
   - Emergency contact:

12. **Avoid working alone.** If you must, make sure someone else knows where you are. If you are in the shop alone after hours, follow established security measures.