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Glossary of Artwork Media - Dianne Longley

Impression: An impression is a single piece of paper with an image printed on it from a matrix.

Original limited edition print: An original limited edition print is a work of art conceived for and produced by means of a printing process. A fine art print is original only if the artist both conceived and had a direct hand in the production of the print. An original print should be distinguished from a reproduction, which is produced photomechanically, and from a restrike, which is produced as part of a later, unconnected publishing venture. An original limited edition fine art print is usually identified by the presence of a signature, a title and an edition number that has been written on each print by the artist.

Original limited edition print from a digital matrix: An original limited edition print can be hand-printed, by traditional techniques, or via a digital matrix. If a digital matrix is created specifically for a printed image, then the print is still an original work of art. (A reproduction is a copy of an original print or other art work whose matrix design is transferred from the original by a photomechanical process. A reproduction can be printed as a limited edition, but it should be described as a 'limited edition reproduction', and not an original limited edition print.)

Facsimile: A facsimile is a reproduction done to the same scale and appearance as the original.

Matrix: A matrix is an object upon which a design has been formed and which is then used to make an impression on a piece of paper, thus creating a print. A wooden block, metal plate, lithographic stone or a digital file, can be used as a matrix.

Edition: An edition is a group of identical printed impressions, each bearing the same title and date and printed by or with the artist's authority. The size of an edition may vary enormously, and the edition numbers do not designate the order in which the edition was printed.

2nd/3rd Edition: If an edition of prints is sold, the artist can choose to print a second edition from the matrix used to produce the first edition. Usually a

symbol is used to acknowledge this, sometimes a 2nd ed., or lled. is written next to the edition number.

Edition: A number of art prints of a certain image, all the same size and as close to identical as possible. In the days when all prints were made by hand, one of the challenges of producing an edition was to make the copies as consistent as possible; that is, as much alike as possible. Of course, small variations will inevitably happen in any hand-pulled edition. One indicator of the level of the printmaker's art was the consistency of the editions.

State: A state of a print includes all the impressions pulled without any change being made to the matrix. A first state print is one of the first group of impressions pulled. Different states of a print can reflect intentional or accidental changes to the matrix. States of a print should be distinguished from editions of a print. There can be several editions of a print which are the same state, and there can be several states of a print in the same edition.

Signed: A signed print is one signed, in pencil or ink, by the artist or engraver. A print is said to be signed in the plate if the artist's signature is incorporated into the matrix and so appears as part of the printed image.

Artist's Proof: The first set of prints pulled for the artist's own use, are marked as A.P. and may or may not be numbered and are considered by many to be higher in value than the subsequent numbered edition prints.

Aquatint: A process in which acid-resistant, powdered resin or asphaltum is deposited and fixed onto areas of the plate before biting, in order to create a tonal field. Aquatint can be used to achieve a wide range of tonal effects depending on the size of the particles applied and the nature of their distribution.

Intaglio: An intaglio print is one whose image is printed from a recessed design incised or etched into the surface of a plate. The ink lies below the surface of the plate and is transferred to the paper under pressure. The printed lines of an intaglio print stand in relief on the paper. A characteristic of an intaglio print is its platemark.

Plate: A metal plate is a flat sheet of metal, usually copper, steel or zinc, used as a matrix for a print. A photopolymer plate can be used as a fine art print matrix.

Platemark: A platemark is the rectangular ridge created in the paper of a print by the edge of an intaglio plate. Unlike a relief or planographic print, an intaglio print is printed under considerable pressure, thus creating the platemark when the paper is forced together with the plate, under felts, through an etching press.

Pochoir: Hand-printed image using a stencil. Sometimes used to apply colour to a printed image.

Photopolymer Printing:

Embossing: Any process used to create a raised or depressed surface, sometimes without ink.

Drypoint: Drawing directly onto a copper or acrylic plate with a sharp point creates a rough ridge of metal - a burr - along the furrow. When the plate is inked, the burr catches the ink, producing dark, velvety accents.

Chine Collé: Chine Collé is a print in which the image is impressed onto a thin sheet of Oriental paper which is backed by a stronger, thicker sheet. Because China paper takes an intaglio impression more easily than regular paper, chine collé prints generally show a richer impression than standard prints.

Giclee (pronounced Jee Clay): A “giclee” print is a piece of printed artwork or photograph produced by using a high quality digital inkjet printer. The technology behind this revolution is based on the power of computers combining with advances in printing techniques. Extremely fine droplets of ink can be spurted onto heavy water-color paper. These droplets can be controlled by computer so that the resolution of the printed image is much finer than conventional printing. The image and printer commands are recorded as a digital file and can be accessed on demand. This means that an edition can be proofed and then tested for popularity. Then when the artist, gallery or publisher wishes to print more copies of the image they can be produced as and whenever needed.

Gold and Silver Leaf:

À la poupée: A print is printed in color à la poupée when colored ink is applied directly to a plate's surface and worked into the appropriate area of the design using cotton daubs called dollies, or in French, poupée.

Etching: A process in which the plate is prepared with a covering of acid-resistant ground (usually a compound of asphaltum, beeswax and resin), before being drawn upon using a sharp metal needle. When the plate is placed in acid, only those areas of the surface exposed by the needle are "bitten". The strength of the acid, and the length of the plate's exposure to it determine the intensity and quality of the line etched on its surface.

Relief: The image is printed from the raised portions of a carved, etched, or cast block or other rigid material. The printing surface stands in relief above the rest of the block and the ink lies on the top of the block and is transferred to the paper under light pressure.

Monoprint: Ink or paint applied onto an already worked plate. Although a matrix is present, real editions are really impossible to carry out.

Monotype: Ink or paint is applied to a smooth plate. Because there is no fixed matrix, only one strong impression can be printed.

Mixed Media works: Mixed media in art refers to a work of art which was created by using a combination of more than one medium. The term is not to be confused with "multimedia art" which implies a broader scope of mixed media, combining visual art with non-visual elements or with elements of the other arts such literature, drama, dance or music.

Using mixed media in your art work can give your work a variety of interesting effects and combining found objects in the mixed media work will often add deeper levels of meaning to the work.

Mixed media tends to refer to a work of visual art that combines various traditionally distinct visual art media. For example, a work on canvas that combines paint, ink, and collage could properly be called a "mixed media" work - but not a work of "multimedia art." The term multimedia art implies a broader scope than mixed media, combining visual art with non-visual elements (such as recorded sound, for example) or with elements of the other arts (such as literature, drama, dance, motion graphics, music, or interactivity).

Pokerwork: Pokerwork, also known as pyrography, refers to a form of decoration involving burning designs into timber, leather or other materials with hot pokers or electrically heated tools. In terms of texture, the art form is similar to engraving. Pokerwork has been around for 500 years in the world as a decorative element. It was in the late 19th century that painting, combined with pokerwork, became popular.

Encaustic: Also known as hot wax painting, encaustic painting involves the use of colour pigments added to heated beeswax. The mixture of beeswax and pigment is applied to surfaces such as prepared wood or artists canvas.

Various tools and special brushes are used to shape the paint before it cools. If the artist needs to shape or manipulate the wax after it has cooled, heated metal tools can be used on the cooled wax. Encaustic painting can involve both painting and sculpting techniques and other materials can be collaged or encased into the surface due to the binding properties of the beeswax.

Cuttlefish Bronze Casting: Cuttlefish casting using cuttlebone as a mould is a traditional casting method used by jewellers and silversmiths for small objects. The fine grain of the calcium carbonate cuttlebone offers good definition, although it imparts a characteristic surface texture to the cast.

Decal: Either a design that is fixed to some surface or a paper bearing the design which is to be transferred to the surface a picture, design, or label made to be transferred (as to glass) from specially prepared paper. Lazertran is a particular brand of decal transfer paper.