

Dianne Longley - The Print Studio

87 Frederick Street Welland South Australia 5007

phone & fax: 08 8346 1957 email:prints@ozemail.com.au website: www.printstudio.com.au

WS Printing Digital Type (Letterpress) Two Day Workshop - 10am-5pm

This workshop will show you how to create relief printing plates from digital files. The text will be set using Adobe InDesign software, and then printed to film on an Epson printer with Agfa Copyjet film. The images when printed on a letterpress printing press can include image and text on the one plate. The printing plates can be printed in black and white or in colour.

This is a workshop for you to learn about a new printmaking technique:

- this introductory workshop does not require specific printmaking experience.
- this workshop is ideal for book artists, and printmakers who want an introduction to this letterpress technique.
- workshop participants will produce one relief plate which can combine images and text.
- this workshop will cover printing on a letterpress printing press.
- photopolymer printing of type is different from lead type printing, but has the advantage of combining image and text on the one plate.

Course content:

- prepare a digital file combining text and image which can be translated into letterpress printing plates
- explanation of the technique to produce relief photopolymer plates
- examples of prints which will be discussed
- produce a film negative, including the file preparation in Adobe InDesign, and image preparation in Adobe Photoshop
- printing of film negative onto transparency film
- exposure of test strips, analyse test results, print tests
- expose plate, wash-out, plate drying and post exposing
- paper preparation, press preparation
- press inking and printing relief plates onto fine art paper in a small edition

MATERIALS KIT supplied:

1 Photopolymer plate Miraclon MS94, A4 30 x 21cm, 1 digital print onto film, printing paper for relief letterpress prints

General printing equipment in the studio:

Epson printer for film negatives, opaque mediums and pens, printing inks for relief and intaglio, tarlatan, olfa cutter, natural bristle brush, fan heater, sponges, plastic bags for damp paper, talc, soft brush, metal rulers, cutting mats, vegetable oil, bio-thinners, rollers

Additional materials available for purchase:

Photopolymer plates, digital transparencies

Please bring any of the following if you have them:

Notebook, pencils, brushes, masking tape, snap-off design knife, rubber/disposable gloves, and rags for cleaning up.

You will be required to wear protective clothing such as an apron, gloves (for some processes) and closed leather shoes.

Workshop preparation:

During the workshop we will develop one relief letterpress plate, so bring some text (your own or quoted text) and an image/s. Bring these in digital format, on a CD or USB flash drive.

Image production for relief prints:

To produce a relief print the image/text has to be the inverse of the desired result. The areas you want to remain to print black must be clear on your transparency film. When the plate is exposed to UV light the clear areas harden and form your printing surface, while the areas to be white in your print are opaque on the film, block the UV light and are washed away.

Digital images onto transparency film

Images need to be opaque, as we want the plate to wash away in the light areas to create a surface which will print the very fine detail. Remember that using Photoshop you can easily invert your image to produce a film negative. We will print the film negatives here at The Print Studio using an Epson printer and Agfa Copyjet transparency film to ensure good opaque blacks and tonal detail.

Film negatives (relief) - right reading emulsion down

Can be produced by film lab from a photograph or from a digital file. These print in relief very well, but are more expensive. The digital file should be 300dpi, and you can order the digital file at 120lpi (lines per inch), or with stochastic screening. (Telephone me for details if you want to have a film printed prior to the workshop.)

Bibliography

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Website information

Dianne Longley
www.printstudio.com.au

Dan Burkholder
www.danburkholder.com.au

Silvi Glattauer
www.silvi.com.au/

Christie Nuell, Middle Tennessee State University
<http://www.mtsu.edu/%7Eart/printmaking/index.html>