

## Lithography

---

Lithography was invented two hundred years ago by Alois Senefelder, utilizing the repulsion of two essential substances, grease and water, on a very finely porous limestone. Since the end of the nineteenth century, supports such as zinc and aluminium have been used instead of calcium carbonate stones. The repulsion between grease and water allows for the drawing of the artist and the non-printed areas of the plate surface to exist on the same level, unlike the various intaglio techniques. The artist draws on the plate using grease pencils or crayons, similar to those used for drawing on paper, or with a brush, as used for painting. The drawing becomes fixed to the stone or plate through a surface treatment of weak acid. After inking the surface with a roller, the stone or plate is printed onto paper.

The quality of an original lithograph depends on many diverse artistic and technical factors, from the personality of the artist to their use of the expressive qualities of materials, from the compact structure of calcium carbonate stone to the grain of the aluminium or zinc plate, from the soft touch of the crayon to the amount of acid or gum arabic, from the particular characteristics of the inks, to the pressure of the press.

The course is envisioned as a special workshop, where the participants can gradually acquaint themselves with the various materials and techniques of lithography. Within the program, the individual will realise some lithographic works, while, at the same time, learning the various technical solutions.

Program of classes:

The classes will take place on a weekly basis.

The following techniques will be scheduled monthly.

October

Introduction: an artistic history through slides and original prints.

Drawing with an oil crayon: as used by artists such as Goya, Daumier, Hayez, Munch, Matisse, etc. It is a technique which permits the artist to obtain different gradations of chiaroscuro, while maintaining the immediacy of the drawing and the personal touch.

The lessons will include exercises on calcium stone and aluminium plates.

November

Techniques of imprint and application of materials:

According to Jean Dubuffet, a lithograph is an imprint, and every lithograph is founded on the principle of the print and the transfer of the imprint; thus, any greasy material that leaves a mark may be utilized for the elaboration of an artistic project. .

It is a techniques that inspires the expressive possibilities of the materials.

It could be applied directly to the support or can be transferred indirectly through tracing paper. The lessons will include exercises exploring these different possibilities.

# SCUOLA INTERNAZIONALE DI GRAFICA - SYLLABI

## Lithography

---

### December

Drawing with pens, brushes, and the "crachis" techniques:

We will explore the different techniques of drawing with lithographic ink, mastered by Toulouse-Lautrec, Bonnard, and other great artists of the Liberty period.

Liquid ink can be applied to the stone or plate with pens, brushes and sprays.

The classes will explore use of the different materials on calcium carbonate stones and aluminium plates.

### January

Watercolor techniques in lithography:

A technique often used by contemporary artists, which allows the density and gradation of colors to be applied with a brush. The characteristic and suggestive effect of this technique is given by inconsistencies that are determined by the drying of the ink and that give energy and vivacity to the composition. The lessons will involve exercises using aluminium plates.

### February

Relief printing from the stone:

Using a special procedure of subtraction, similar to methods of stone sculpture, it is possible to draw in negative, liberating the light areas.

It is a technique that can create both lively contrasts and delicate nuances. This technique will be explored using calcium carbonate stones.

### March

Transfer techniques:

Using solvents and light sensitive gelatine it is possible to transfer a photographic or printed image onto a lithographic plate that can be reworked by the artist.

With this system it is possible to combine images of everyday reality with the gestural drawing of the artist.

Rauschenberg and the Pop artists were among the major exponents of this technique.

The classes will explore the transfer and the elaboration of photographic images on presensitized aluminium plates.

### April

Color lithography:

Techniques learned in previous months will be adapted for color printing during this month. The lessons will provide the following methods of printing: spectrum printing, printing several colors from one plate, and printing several colors from multiple plates.

### May

Execution of the final stage:

In preparation for a collective exhibition, every participant will elaborate and execute an individual project.