

HCC Arts 2333 Etching Assignment

Create ONE true edition consisting of 4 prints (1/4, 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4) using 2 or more of the following etching and engraving (intaglio) techniques:

- Using the line etch with hard ground (acrylic floor wax and etching needle)
- Using the aquatint technique (spray paint) to create shifts in value
- Using the dry point engraving technique (etching needle directly on the plate) to create soft lines

The images for the etchings should be based on the idea of architecture (whether realistically, abstractly or non-representationally). Find an image of your favorite building. It can be your house, a famous building, a structure you like or even one you make-up.

Trace the outside of your plate into your sketchbook multiple times. Within these traces create some preliminary sketches that fit into the visual space your plate provides in your sketchbook. Think about focal point, composition and filling the space with foreground and background. Use a soft pencil (Ebony Pencil or 6B or 9B) to get the basic structure of your image. Once you do this you will be ready to transfer the image onto your plate and proceed with etching.

Materials:

- Intaglio printmaking paper
- Ebony Pencil
- Zinc Plate
- Enamel Spray Paint (1 can)
- Etching Needle
- Scraper
- Burnisher
- Card Stock Squares and Dauber
- Tarlatan
- Registration Acetate
- Newsprint

Have your sketchbook and notes with you at all times during this project so you can refer to your notes. This demo will be broken up into 2 parts. You must have an image by the next class meeting so you can finish your project on time. Do steps 1 and 2 by the next class and have all of your materials ready to begin at the next class meeting.

Some artists to look at: Piranesi, Rembrandt, Goya, Hugh Merrill, William Strang and William Blake

You will print more than just 4 prints. Tear down at least 2 sheets of 22"X30" paper so you have enough to pull an edition of 4 identical prints.

Your paper size however, will be dependent on your plate size: if you purchased a 5"X7" plate, the image will fit nicely on an 8"X10" sheet of paper. If you purchased a 6"X9" plate you should print it on an 11"X14" sheet of paper, etc. You need to have enough "white space" around your plate mark so the image is visually balanced on the paper.

Each print must be titled, numbered as an edition (not like a monotype) and signed in pencil ¼ of an inch from the bottom of the composition/bottom plate mark. So, if you have 4 identical prints, you will number one of the prints 1/4, another print 2/4, the next 3/4 and then the last print 4/4.

You will ONLY use ONE ink color to print your edition. Choose your ink color wisely.

Rubric for Project 2 Etching

30 points for Criteria 1 Image Design and Etching Technique

Criteria 1 Image Design: Identify, define and understand the formal elements of art and the principles of design. Must be understandably linked to project technical aspects such as clean dark lines (from hard ground etching), soft lines (from drypoint engraving) and/or tonal variation within the composition (from aquatint technique). The plate used for printing must contain one of three processes from intaglio: the line etch, dry point engraving or/and aquatint techniques.

20 points for Criteria 2 Printing technique

Criteria 2 Printing technique: Produce an edition of prints consistent with lecture and demonstration during class and critique projects that coordinate descriptive and expressive possibilities of intaglio printing techniques. The edition must be printed using Intaglio inking techniques using 1 color. Craftsmanship, accuracy, consistency and care of editioning materials also fall under this category.

20 points for Criteria 3 Ink and paper usage

Criteria 3 Ink and paper usage: Safely participate in the necessary practical tasks (safety and proficiency of handling of tools, supplies and equipment, etc.) involved with the etching and engraving techniques. Ink application, consistency in printing and craftsmanship with paper handling/tearing should be demonstrated as appropriate to standards set in demonstration and critique.

20 points for Criteria 4 Overall Effort/Craftsmanship/Finishing

Criteria 4 Overall Effort (as exhibited and explained in Critique) /Craftsmanship/Finishing: Be able to demonstrate the ability to produce and present finished works of exhibition quality. Effort, on the part of the student, for this project is considered a vigorous or determined attempt at creating an edition of prints that successfully reflect a visual correlation between the student's concept and the appearance of the zinc plate etching and engraving techniques (line etch using hard ground, aquatinting using spray paint and/or dry point engraving) when printed Intaglio style.

10 points for Criteria 5 Critique Participation

Criteria 5 Critique: Select and verify course media and techniques in completed projects by example of complete portfolio. Verbally assess own works as well as others using constructive criticism and appropriate comments.