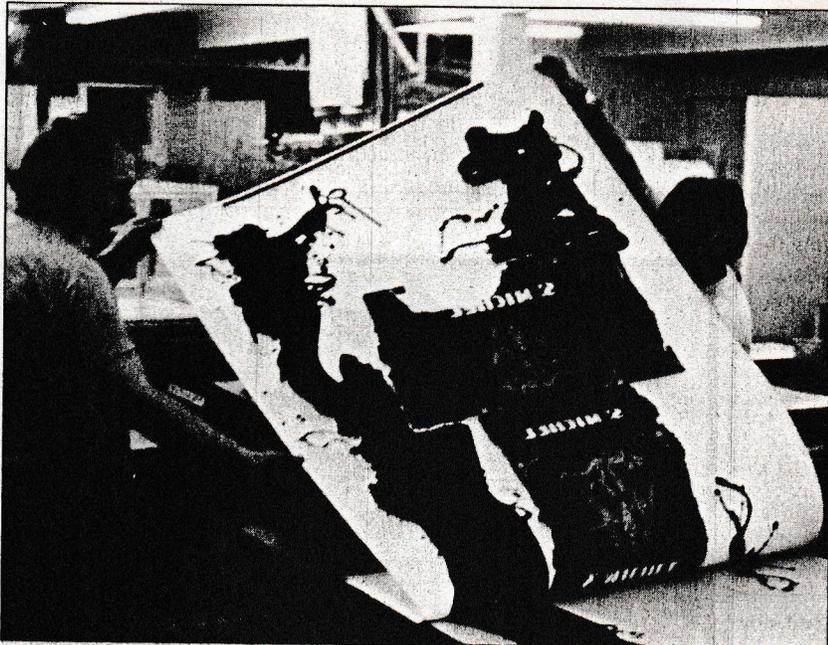


JARGON

A lexicon for living well



Master printmaker Ken Tyler (right) helps pull a proof for a Robert Motherwell lithograph.

WALKER ART CENTER

PRINTMAKING

Next time you're invited to see someone's etchings, you'll know what to look for.

The quest for quality prints can be confusing, especially if you're not up on your graphic artspeak. Art publishing is the reproduction of original works through the printing process. But what's the difference between a litho and an etching, and how many other people own copies of what you are considering buying?

Here is a glossary to help you along your way.

Artist's Proof. The initial work or "mold" of art, which defines the edition. Remains separate from the numbered edition, usually identified with "AP." Usually kept by the artist or publisher.

Cancellation Proof. To prove that an edition is indeed limited to the given number, the artist defaces the plate, screen or block once the printing is finished. Then another print is made of this defaced image, which is signed by the artist and marked "cancelled." A cancellation proof should be kept by the publisher as proof of

the edition number, thereby protecting the value of the print.

Chop. The print shop mark on the print: the publisher's number.

Edition. The total number of prints made after the artist's proof, consecutively numbered and signed by the artist. For example, 7/50 means the seventh print pulled from an edition of fifty. All of the prints in the edition should be of equal quality, and it is a fallacy that the first prints with the smaller numbers are better or more valuable. That opinion is left over from the days when an etching plate would wear out after several hundred prints were made.

Engraving. A drawing made by cutting into a metal plate, generally copper or zinc, with a tool. Ink is applied, then wiped off. The cut, or engraved, lines hold the color that prints the drawing.

Etching. A metal plate is covered with wax or another protective substance, except in the area of the drawing. The plate is dipped in acid, or the acid is applied to small areas, to eat away the metal. The

longer the exposure to acid, the deeper the indentation to receive the ink. The shading of the drawing is deeper or blacker with the depth of indentation.

Lithography. The process in which an image is drawn on stone, aluminum or zinc plates with greasy drawing materials. The drawn area then accepts ink through a chemical treatment and the nonimage area rejects the ink, accepting only water.

Printer's Proof. A print exactly like the rest of an edition, given to the printer who worked the print, and designated "PP."

Silk Screen. The process in which silk or a synthetic fabric is stretched over a frame and stencils are attached to this "blanket." Ink is passed through the screen onto paper. The result is often more painterly in texture than a lithograph, but less precise.

Woodcut. The process in which an image is cut into a block of wood; the wood is inked with a roller, and paper is then rubbed over the image. ♦

— Richard Stayton and
Hunter Drohojowska