

Solar Plate Class

Participating Artists will need marked with a * for first class... if any questions call Carol FitzSimonds 401-683-1549. Utrech's Art Supply on Wickedden St. has Charbonnel or Gamblin etching inks, dura-lar film, and some of the printmaking papers listed below.

“Printmaking is invention and innovation and endless possibility.” I plan to show how exciting and endless the possibilities are for solar plate printmaking in this class.

First class: we will jump right in by grinding plate glass to use for drawing images and then exposing solar plates. I will demo exposing and developing a solar plate using the plate glass directly on the plate then the “washout to hardening” process.

Please be sure to bring the \$10.50 material fee for 1 - 5x7 inch plate and tarlatan. You will need to have items marked with * for the first class. I want each student if possible to expose, develop, and harden a solar plate this first class to print during the 2nd class.

*1. **Some form of notebook and pen.** You will need to take notes in my classes and have a place to keep the handouts I will give out each class. Please bring this list to the first class as well.

2. To create Magnetic Board for inking plates.

Cheap white plastic cutting board with handle from Ocean State Job Lot or some type of board at least 12x13 inches ... needs to be large enough to hold 8x10 inch solar plate
Self adhesive black magnetic sheet that you get from craft store (comes rolled, boxed - ready to unpeel and stick) – needs to cover 10 x11 inch surface

* 3. **A drawings or photographs sized to fit a 5x7 size plate.**

I highly stress taking the time to plan your compositions – creating an image that you love & want to develop in multiply ways. Images can be linear or tonal or combination of both.
We will be using these drawings or photographs as guides in creating images on the plate glass.

4. **Drawing Pencils (from 6H to 9B – whatever you have), India Black Ink, Tusche Ink, Conte Crayon, or Black Watercolor**

* 5. **Printmaking paper:** 1 sheet of Somerset, Arches Cover, Rives BFK, or Revere for first class. These are good papers for printing. I will show you how to tell front/back of paper and direction of grain so you can mark your paper in pencil on the back with your last name and type of paper in each corner and indicate direction of grain.

* 5. **1 roll of Bounty or a good quality paper towel**

* 6. **Clean soft cotton rag**

* 7. **Pad of newsprint 18 x 24 inches or slightly smaller**

* 8. **Apron or old shirt...some type of cover up, (latex rubber gloves optional)**

- * 9. **Palette knife or spatula** for working etching ink (must be very flexible)
- 10. Rubber Brayers - if you have them
- *11. **A few different size brushes, pencils, and Q-tips**
- *12. **1 tube or can of Etching Ink** – can get at Utrechts. Utrechts has a good selection of colors. You can also order on-line from Daniel Smith in Seattle, WA or Graphic Chemical near Chicago. Both companies make really nice inks and carry everything a printmaker might ever need.
- * 13. **Baby oil for cleanup**

If you have or can borrow Dan Welden's book Printmaking in the Sun to look through – then do but please don't be overwhelmed by all the information. Mostly just look at the different types of images that can be produced with these plates. This book covers everything imaginable but there have been some technique changes since published. **(Welden's book is out of print so outrageously expensive! Save your money...he is working on another up-dated version.)** You can also go on-line and read about solar plate printmaking.

I will give you enough information and handouts so you won't need Welden's book to create your prints.

Come with lots of enthusiasm! Together we will learn how to create solar plates from drawings on vellum, 1/4" thick pieces of plate glass, on transparency film, or on the plate itself. How to take a drawing or photo then using a computer scanner and printer transfer the image to film...or use a B/W or color copy machine for this. All these various techniques will be covered in class.

I'll end with - please, please be prompt for every class!