

Moxie University

PRINTMAKING

Printmaking occupies a long and distinguished place in the history of art. There are many different ways to make prints. A “print” is simply the process of transferring a master image from one material to another. Typically this technique is used to make multiple, exact copies of this transferred image.

Woodcutting is perhaps the oldest and most known technique. It is called a relief print. A Relief Print is one where grooves are carved onto a surface to print. The surface is coated with some form of ink and pressed onto paper or some other surface. The grooves in the surface do not get inked and as such, do not transfer whatever ink was applied, creating an image. Wood is an ideal material for such a process because it is easy to cut. Some good examples of woodcuts are from the German Expressionists who were attracted to woodcuts for their direct, honest and simple approach to image making that reflected their aesthetic.



Ernst Kirchner, Portrait of Otto Muller, 1915



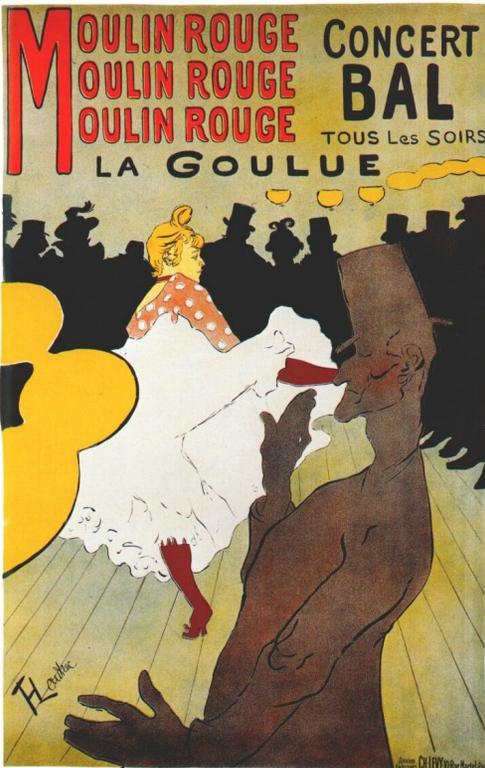
Emil Nolde, Prophet, 1912

Lithography is a technique invented in 1798 by Alois Senefelder and based on the repulsion of oil and water.

A grease-protected design is applied to a porous surface, like limestone. Acid is then applied; this transfers the image to the surface of a piece of limestone. Gum arabic is then applied and this seals the surface that is not covered with the drawing medium. The stone is wetted, the water will only stay on the surface that is not covered in the grease-based residue of the drawing. The stone surface is then used to make mass prints.



Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec produced some of the most famous examples of this art-form, making posters for the Moulin Rouge during France's Belle Epoch period (1880 – 1914). Lautrec loved to hang around the dancers and cabaret scene of France during these times. Besides Lithography posters he produced art that was evocative, displaying an intimate look at that theatrical culture of the time.



Moulin Rouge: La Goulue,
poster (1891)



Divan Japonais,
(1892-93)