

GLOSSARY OF TERMS – NWOP

The glossary of terms has been prepared in relation to the materials and methods used by the artists in the 2006 National Works on Paper.

BLIND EMBOSSING – a print technique that leaves an image indented or raised on the surface of a sheet of paper.

CHARCOAL – for many centuries artists have used charcoal in drawing to create light and shade. Charcoal is made from selected wood that is burned in a low oxygen environment.

COLLAGE – a two-dimensional image created by applying elements from a range of materials such as fabric, photographs, newspapers and magazines.

CONTE (Conté) – a drawing medium, a coloured graphite or crayon that is used in a similar way to charcoal.

CRAYON – a drawing medium made of oiled chalk.

DIGITAL PRINTS – a print made using digital technology, for example, an image developed using computer software that can then be printed onto artist-quality paper.

DIPTYCH – a work of art comprising two components that together create a single work.

DRAFTING FILM – a sheet of transparent film placed over a work of art. Artists can draw or print on to the transparent film.

EDITION – a term used in printmaking to refer to a group of impressions taken from a plate or block. Each print is then numbered consecutively, for example 1/12 which means it was the first of 12 to be printed.

ETCHING – there are wet and dry etching processes. The surface of a plate is cut or etched using implements and/or acids. Ink is then applied to the etched plate and a print impression is taken.

GIACCO – an oil or water-based primer used to seal paper or canvas before applying paint. Gesso is used to preserve the work and to stop the medium from bleeding back into the surface.

GOUACHE – a water-based, quick drying pigment thickened with chalk to give a more opaque (non-transparent) effect when applied.

GOLD LEAF – thin sheets of malleable gold that can be applied to any two- or three-dimensional surface.

IMPRESSION – an image created in printmaking by using different techniques.

INDIAN INK – a simple black ink once widely used for writing and printing, and now more commonly used for drawing, especially when inking comics.

INDIAN PAPER – a specialist textured paper that can incorporate jute or silk.

INTAGLIO – a printmaking process that includes engraving, drypoint, etching, aquatint, stipple and mezzotint. The paper receives ink from the grooves and lines in the plate as opposed to the surface of the plate.

KOZO PAPER – a specialist textured paper made from the thick, long and strong fibres of the kozo plant which is in the mulberry family.

OCHRE – a natural pigment that comes directly from the earth's surface. This can be applied directly or can be ground into a powder which is moistened to allow easier application.

OIL ON PAPER – oil-based paint that has been applied to a paper surface.

PASTEL – a drawing medium, made up of pigments that are blended with oils, chalk and gum.

PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHY – a film negative is printed on to a photo sensitised plate. Only the image area on the plate retains the ink when the impression is made.

RELIEF – a print process in which the image is created by 'taking up' ink from the flat surfaces of the plate or block.

RICE PAPER – rice paper is a specialist textured paper made using rice straw fibres.

SCREENPRINT – a print technique where an artist stencils an image directly on to a screen. The screen is then placed on top of dry paper or fabric and ink is placed on top of the screen and a squeegee or rubber blade is used to spread the ink evenly across the screen. Ink passes through the un-stencilled areas of the screen creating an image on the paper or fabric.

SHELLAC – a solid material derived from an insect, which is traditionally mixed with mineral turpentine to create a varnish finish.

SILK PAPER – a specialist textured paper made from silk fibres.

SPIDER SILK – the silk of a spider web – a unique material used by an artist in the exhibition.

SYNTHETIC POLYMER PAINT – a water-based paint in which the polymer binder enables the coating to last longer and retain its colour intensity.

TRIPTYCH – a work comprising three components that create a single work.

VELVET PAPER – a specialist paper with velvet qualities.

WATERCOLOUR – a water-based pigment used to create transparent and translucent effects.

WOODCUT – a print in which an image is carved into the surface of a wood block. The print impression is made from the ink that sits on the surface of the block.