

THE RELIEF SURFACE SCREENPRINT

A PHOTO-BASED SCREENPRINTING TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED BY DENNIS O'NEIL

PREPARING THE IMAGE

Select a photographic image to work with that has good contrast with details in both the highlights and shadows. Scan the image and make any necessary changes to the contrast and image scale in Photoshop.

- Invert the image to a negative.
- Change to greyscale.
- Reduce the resolution to 150ppi.
- Apply a halftone dot.
- Print the image as film using a laser printer.



Final image. Dennis O'Neil, 2006

PREPARING THE SCREEN

Coat screens with emulsion and allow time to dry completely.

- Expose the image to a screen.
- Expose an open field the same size as the image area (or slightly bigger if you'd like a border) to the same screen or a different screen depending on sizes.

PREPARING THE PAPER

It is suggested that Arches 88 paper be used for best results with this process. Arches 88 is a smooth mould made 100% rag water-leaf paper without any discernible tooth or texture.

- Measure and tear or cut the paper down to size.
- Punch paper or apply plastic tabs to the back of each sheet for pin and tab registration system.
- Register the open field screen to the paper, tape pins in place and print 2 to 3 coats of transparent base to seal each sheet. Allow for drying time.



Materials and equipment. Open Studio, 2008

PRINTING THE IMAGE

Register the image screen to the paper and tape pins in place. Print the image 10 to 15 times in absolute registration using transparent base. Allow drying time between layers. Do not break down the registration once printing has begun.

ADDING COLOUR TO THE PRINTED IMAGE

Mix oil paint with soft wax and apply with a wide spatula (4"-6"). Layer colours, add and remove while paint/wax mix is still wet. Metallic powdered pigments (mica powder) can be dusted over the image while the surface wax is still wet. Allow a few hours drying time then wipe to remove any excess.



Adding colour to the image. Dennis O'Neil, 2006



Wiping the dry image. Dennis O'Neil, 2006

LIST OF SUPPLIES AND SUPPLIERS

ARCHES 88 paper	Woolfitts	416.536.7878 www.woolfitts.com
	Above Ground	416.591.1601 www.abovegroundartsupplies.com
TW Screenprinting ink Water-based 4033 Flat Clear Base	TW Graphics, East Coast, US	800.901.3051 www.twgraphics.com
SPEEDBALL Screenprinting ink Acrylic transparent base	Woolfitts	416.536.7878 www.woolfitts.com
	Tern Art Supplies	416.537.7338
	Curry's	416-260-2633 www.currys.com
	Above Ground	416.591.1601 www.abovegroundartsupplies.com
	Open Studio	416.504.8238 www.openstudio.on.ca
GAMBLIN Cold Wax Medium	GAMBLIN	503.235.1945 www.gamblincolors.com
	Woolfitts	416.536.7878 www.woolfitts.com
	Above Ground	416.591.1601 www.abovegroundartsupplies.com
DORLAN's Cold Wax Medium	The Paint Spot	800.363.0546 www.paintspot.ca
	Jacquard Products	800.442.0455 www.jacquardproducts.com
Pearl Ex Pigments	DeSerres	416.703.4748 www.deserres.ca
	The Paint Spot	800.363.0546 www.paintspot.ca
Registration pins and tabs	Open Studio	416.504.8238 www.openstudio.on.ca

Photo emulsion: any type suitable for use with water-based inks will work

Oil paints: any type will work