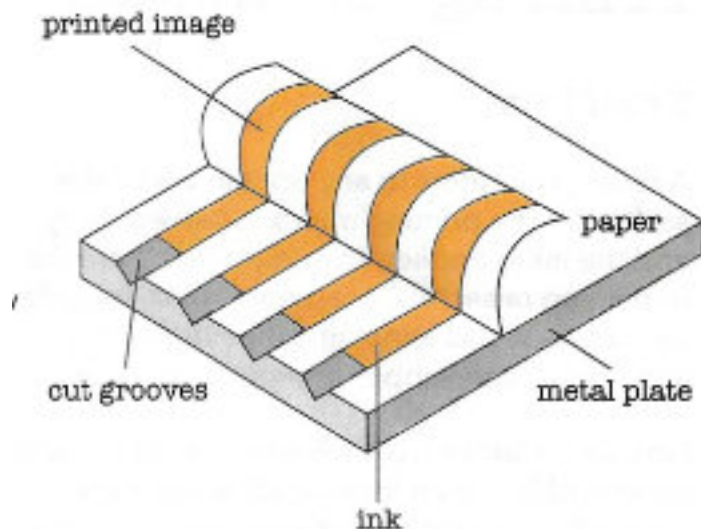


INTAGLIO PRINTING

On an intaglio print, the image is incised into a surface of a metal or plexi-glass plate, Ink is pressed into the incised line and pressure used to transfer the inked image to the paper. Intaglio prints can be identified by a slightly raised ink surface and a plate mark around the image where press pressure creates an indentation of the paper. Common types of intaglio prints are etching, dry point, aquatint, and photogravure.



Etching: The most common intaglio technique that can create a wide variety of printed marks. A wax resist is applied to a clean metal plate. A pointed tool is used to draw into the wax resist, exposing the metal plate at those lines. When the plate is placed in a corrosive acid bath, only the exposed metal areas corrode, creating an etched line. Ink is pressed into the etched lines and the plate surface polished clean, leaving ink only in the etched lines. Damp paper is laid over the plate and then run through a press, applying pressure and transferring the ink from the plate recesses to the paper.

Aquatint: Aquatint is identified by subtle value gradation, imitating a watercolor effect. Fine particles of powdered rosin are dusted evenly over the plate surface and then adhered to the plate with heat. The surface of the plate is now evenly exposed and protected from the acid etch by the evenly dispersed rosin. Areas to remain white are immediately blocked out with a liquid rosin. Remember, the depth of the etched groove determines the darkness of the line, the deeper the etch, the darker the line. The plate is then etched, inked and printed. So, by controlling the length of acid exposure, one can control the depth of the etch and the darkness of the gradation.

Dry point: On Dry Point, a sharp tool is used to score grooves into the plate. In pulling the sharp point across the plate, the plate material is displaced, creating a raised furrow on one side of the groove. This "burr" creates a feathery line when printed, an identifiable characteristic of dry point. Dry points are printed in smaller editions as the burr will crush or break down from the pressure applied during printing.

