

INGA TORFADÓTTIR

ARTIST PROCESS

MONOTYPES and MONOPRINTS

Monotypes are a form of artwork created through a printmaking process that is often referred to as the most painterly method within the printmaking process. Like a painting, they are always one of a kind.

A plate with a hard, smooth surface such as copper or Plexiglas is used as a matrix for working either positively or negatively.

Working positively means that ink is applied to the plate by rolling, dabbing, or brushing it on to the surface to create an image. Working negatively means that the entire surface of the plate is covered with ink, which consequently is removed with rags, scrapers, fingers, sticks, etc. to reveal the image.

The plate is then run through the press to transfer the image onto a printing paper.

The term Monoprint refers to a unique print pulled from a plate that has been altered somewhat and already has an image incised or glued onto it. The plate is then worked further by applying inks, often in layers, which are then wiped in an expressive non-repeatable manner revealing the desired impression.

The true appeal of the monotype/monoprint lies in the unique translucency that creates a quality of light very different from a painting on paper, board, or canvas. Additionally, the unique allowance for spontaneity and combinations of printmaking, painting and drawing media can add an element of excitement and wonder to the process unprecedented in other printmaking methods.

PROCESS PAPER CUTTING

Paper cutting or Scherenschnitte is a form of art that has a long history. The oldest known surviving paper cutout is a symmetrical circle from the 6th century (Six Dynasties) period found in Xinjiang China.

Papermaking did not reach Europe until the 13th century, so it was not until the 16th century that paper-cut art (known as "Scherenschnitte") was established in Switzerland and Germany.

Cutting paper has captivated the imagination of every generation since then. From the Mayan Indians to the Muslims decorating the walls of a mosque, from the famous storyteller Hans Christian Andersen to the Jewish people hidden away during the Nazi era. This unique art form has found a home in the hearts of people who had little else in common.

Some of the best-known paper-cut artists, apart from Hans Christian Andersen include the French landscape painter Henri Matisse and the contemporary American painter Kara Walker.

I am a self-taught paper-cut artist, and as with much of my printmaking artistry, my paper art is inspired and informed by the ancient Norse Mythology and the Old Sagas.

Using very simple tools such as knives and scissors, each piece is cut from a single sheet of paper. I use archival materials and each piece is hand cut from an original drawing.

For me it has been a natural transition going from printmaking to paper cutting. Both are akin to the other, where the interdependence and balance between the emergence and disappearance of positive and negative space play upon one another's existence as an equal part in the composition.

It is my hope that the energy and the enthusiasm that I put into each piece bring as much joy and inspiration to



anyone viewing them as it does to me creating them.

INGA TORFADOTTIR, "FREYR, ODIN and THOR"

This 31" x 23" paper-cut depicts three Gods from Norse Mythology; Freyr, the God of Fertility, Odin, the Allfather, the most powerful God in Asgard and Thor, the God of Sky and Thunder. Also depicted (around the perimeter) are the Great Serpent, Jormungand, as well as the Tree of Life, Yggdrasil.

In the center is a sun disk with an intricate Viking design, symbolizing the interconnection of all living and non-living entities, the Gods and the people, the ocean and earth, flora and rocks, all of which come from the same roots and can never be separated.