

ART TERMS

ARTIST'S PROOF

(This may be penciled in at the bottom of a print as A/P). Prints outside the standard edition which are intended for the artists's own private collection and used as part of the original artist-publisher agreement.

DOCUMENTATION

Information available on the edition of a print telling the artist's name, the printer's name, the location of the workshop, the number of prints in the edition, date, etc. Although this is somewhat important in print collecting, the condition of the print usually is more significant.

EDITION

The total number of prints made of a specific image and issued together from a publisher.

GICLÉE

An image that is created or scanned into a computer, then printed on a high-speed ink-jet printer. (The term literally means "spurt" or "spray.") Special inks produce incredibly true colors without the dot pattern associated with offset lithography. With advances in technology, the giclee has continued to evolve, and has become an accepted printing method.

The quality of the inks used to print, and the substrate on which the image is printed, affect the quality and longevity of the print. A giclee can be either original art (when the image is created originally in the computer) or a reproduction (when an image is scanned into a computer, then printed.)

GRAPHIC

A term for any "multiple original" work of art on paper. The graphics media includes intaglios, serigraphs, and lithographs. An offset reproduction is not a graphic.

LIMITED EDITION

This term refers to the number of objects that are available. In art, a limited edition refers to the fact that the article is one of a number of images in a published edition for which a predetermined number of impressions were from a plate.

Once the predetermined number of impressions are made, no more impressions are to be taken, assuring that the edition is "limited." The number of impressions in a limited edition should be information that is available to the consumer. Both original graphics and reproductions are offered as "limited editions" from artists and art publishers.

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LIMITED EDITION REPRODUCTION

(Sometimes referred to as "offset lithograph.") Art that has been photomechanically reproduced from another medium and printed by one of several methods, often by offset presses. The edition size has been predetermined by the publisher, generally based on the artists's popularity and sales potential.

LITHOGRAPHY

Artwork printed from a stone or metal plate or other flat surface. The artist uses a greasy substance to draw on the surface of the plate; only these greasy areas will accept ink. Once the plate is inked, high-quality paper is laid over it and the package is pulled through a press.

To create a lithograph with a number of different colors, a number of different plates must be prepared and paper must go through the press each time a new color is added. Lithographs are usually printed in editions of several hundred. Each print is considered a "multiple original" because the artist pulled each one from the press, or closely supervised the press operator. Each print is signed and numbered in the margin.

OPEN EDITION REPRODUCTIONS

Photomechanically reproduced images that are published with no restrictions as to the number of copies that will be made. Open editions usually are decorative pieces of art done in current colors, subjects and sizes, printed on inexpensive paper.

POSTER

This art medium comes from the ancient practice of "posting" messages in public places. Used for advertising or other communication needs, posters were designed to communicate quickly and graphically. Posters are still used for that purpose today . . . movies, concerts, plays and other public events are all promoted with posters.

Vintage Posters:

Those printed 50 to 100 years ago, are highly collectable and have investment value. These often are very large and very graphic, with subject matter ranging from entertainment events to advertisements for products such as tobacco, wine and household items. Many early poster artists have become very famous.

SIGNED AND NUMBERED

At the bottom of each print in an edition, the artist pencils in his signature and numbers the print. The numbering appears as one number over another, for example, 15/30. This indicates that this was the 15th print to be signed and that there were 30 prints in all.