

Lithography & Offset lithography



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Lithography

Lithography (from Ancient Greek λίθος, lithos 'stone', and γράφειν, graphein 'to write') is a method of printing originally based on the immiscibility of oil and water. The printing is from a stone (**lithographic** limestone) or a metal plate with a smooth surface.

What is lithography process?

Lithography is a printing **process** that uses a flat stone or metal plate on which the image areas are worked using a greasy substance so that the ink will adhere to them by, while the non-image areas are made ink-repellent.

What was lithography used for?



Lithography is the process of printing that uses the immiscibility of grease and water to create a high-quality print and can be **used to** print text or artwork onto paper or various other materials. The word **lithography** is derived from the Greek word lithos, meaning “stone” and graphein, meaning “to write.”

What is the difference between etching and lithograph?

Etching: Using an **etching** needle, an artist scratches an image onto a metal plate covered with wax. ... **Lithography:** The artist draws onto stone using a grease-based medium — normally special lithographic crayons, or greasy ink known as tusche.

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How does lithography printing work?

Lithography, planographic **printing** process that makes use of the immiscibility of grease and water. In the **lithographic** process, ink is applied to a grease-treated image on the flat **printing** surface; nonimage (blank) areas, which hold moisture, repel the **lithographic** ink.



How do you clean a lithograph print?

Brush the **lithograph** to remove surface dirt. Use a brush with very soft bristles to gently sweep the front and back of the **print**. Sweep the brush in one direction using moderately sized strokes. This will begin the **cleaning** process by eliminating the dirt on the surface of the **lithograph**.



What is a lithographic poster?

The main difference between **Lithograph** and **Poster** is that the **Lithograph** is a printing process and **Poster** is a any piece of printed paper designed to be attached to a wall or vertical surface. ... Lithography can be used to print text or artwork onto paper or other suitable material.

A step-by-step guide to stone lithography

1. Graining the stone. Once a stone has been printed from for the last time, it is necessary to re-grain the stone to remove the greasy image and enable the stone to be re-used. ...
2. Drawing on the stone. ...
3. **Processing** the stone. ...
4. Washing out and rolling up. ...
5. Printing the stone.

The evolution of lithographic printing

The lithography printing process has adapted to the changes in technology over the years and has become a much more efficient process, making it the ideal printing process for long printing projects such as magazines, books, posters and more.

Offset lithography

The only difference between original stone lithography and original plate lithography is the material used. With original plate lithography, the artist draws onto aluminum as opposed to limestone. This process tends to be easier for artists as the materials are not as heavy. Litho stones can be very heavy and difficult to move, as well as harder to source.

Original plate lithography

The method of offset lithography, also referred to as offset printing, was patented by John Strather in 1853 and though it did not take off immediately, it eventually became the standard method for creating large quantities of high-quality printed materials such as newspapers, magazines, and posters due to its flexibility with different materials. Offset lithography differs from the original lithography method and instead of being hand drawn onto the surface of a metal plate, offset lithographs are made with the use of a printing machine.

Original plate lithography

The image area is printed onto a rubber cylinder which “offsets” the image onto paper and now other materials that the metal plate process does not allow for, such as cloth, wood, tin and more. Offset lithography has evolved into a cost-effective and easy process that consistently results in high quality printed materials. Unlike some printing processes, the lithography process enables thousands of replicas to be made without damaging the image. Other printing processes that use materials such as wood blocks, deteriorate in quality over time as the materials become worn with use.

Colour lithography

Colour lithography was the modern printmaking technique *par excellence* in the fin de siècle.

The art critic André Mellerio went so far as to call it the ‘defining art form of our time’.

At first, the medium was primarily embraced by the Paris avant-garde — colour prints were not admitted to the official Salon until 1899, by which time the popularity of colour lithography in the modern art world had already peaked.

Lithographic colour poster for the famous French dancer Lois Fuller (1893) at the Folies Bergere Cabaret.

By Jules Cheret.



The famous Kitchener World War I Recruitment poster. A dramatic and highly successful use of a poster campaign for political ends.

Designed by Alfred Leete (1882-1933)



The most popular cat of Paris, Le Chat Noir.

Le Chat Noir was founded in 1881 by Rodolphe Salis, he was leader of a small theater. The theater was first located at Boulevard de Rochechouart. While decorating the theater, Salis found a black cat, he raised him and named his theater, Le Chat Noir. Le Chat Noir became a popular meeting place for artists and comedians. Well-known names like: Émile Zola, Georges Rodenbach, and Leon Bloy were his guests.

