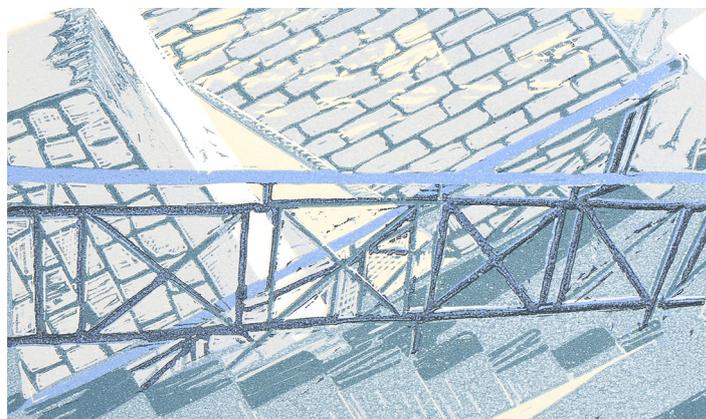


Relief

Colour Reduction Process



The colour reduction method, also known as the elimination or suicide method, allows for a multi-colour print to be created from a single block. Once the edition has been printed further prints cannot be created as the information has been progressively removed from the block. A more exacting method involves using a block for each group of colours to achieve a greater variety of tones across the colour spectrum.

The images above show the sequential printing and cutting of the block for the first three colours along with the finished print. In all six colours were used, A transparent white was printed 4th to knock back areas of the dark grey followed by a blue for the banister and black for the railings.

01. The design/image is drawn directly onto the block in pencil or transferred with tracing paper before being gone over with sharpie. (the sharpies permanent ink drawing will remain on the block after the first colour is printed.)
02. Any areas that will not be printed and will remain white are then cut away.
03. The block is inked up with the first colour, in this case pale yellow, and then the required number of prints are made for the edition (plus a 2-3 extras for artist proofs).
04. After the first colour has been printed the areas of the print that are to remain pale yellow are then cut away from the block.

05. It is then inked up and all the sheets are printed with the second colour, light grey. These areas are then cut away from the block for the third colour, dark grey. This carries on for each subsequent colour until little of the printing surface of the block remains.

Tips

- Prepare the design on several sheets of tracing paper at the correct scale with colour references to help you map out the cutting sequence.
- The order of the printing of colours is usually from light to dark, but rules are made to be broken.
- Registration is critical in reduction prints. Use a registration jig and take your time when printing.