

Alistair Crawford

Prints

At school and then at art school in the 1960s I had made prints; screen prints and relief. At Coventry Polytechnic I took up the practise of graphic design and typography. After I came to Aberystwyth in 1974 I started etching, then lithography, then photography seriously, coupled with drawings and paintings almost exclusively on paper I became a 'graphic artist' in the days when galleries, such as Curwen in London and Printworks Gallery in Chicago, who, amongst others, represented my work, were exclusively dedicated to. As several dealers were to remark during those years, I came at the tail end of the 60s 'print revival'. It was the fruits of the award of a Welsh Arts Council grant to study at the printmaking studios of Editions Alecto in London in 1977 which lead to my national recognition, virtually overnight, as a printmaker. Throughout the 1980s the predominant method I used was etching.

I do not consciously practice any distinction between 'print' versus 'painting' - I practice within Whistler's tradition of 'painter-printmaker'. My reasons for working in prints are not in any way related to the idea of multiples, rather, I have always been interested in the effects of process and the potential/limitations of working within those characteristics. Printmaking is capable of producing marks which cannot be achieved in painting - and vice-versa